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Custom-Built Solutions For Public & Private Clouds

Chenbro Can Build A Chassis For Any Cloud Environment

AT CHENBRO, innovation is one of the primary goals. For 30 years, the company has either ushered in new technologies or found ways to improve upon existing ones. With cloud computing, Chenbro found a need that wasn't being addressed: an easy way to purchase every piece of infrastructure necessary for a virtual environment with enough flexibility to grow alongside the business. And so Chenbro built a series of products designed to fulfill that need.

"We have multiple product lines suited for cloud computing and provide one-stop purchasing for customers, from PC to server chassis solutions," says Ares Lee, product manager at Chenbro (www.chenbro .com). "With modular design, we

can meet particular conditions, application environments, and requirements based on our previous experience and research and development."

Chenbro's PC chassis combined with its 1U. 2U. and 4U rackmount chassis can help meet the individual needs of SMBs and large enterprises alike. Plus, with Chenbro's focus on modular design and customization, you can personalize a product specifically for your company rather than building one yourself using separate pieces of equipment.



Chenbro Cloud-Based PC & Server Chassis

Chenbro's line of cloud-based 1U, 2U, and 4U chassis and server solutions provide the performance, reliability, and flexibility that SMBs and enterprises need to support both public and private cloud environments. Many chassis models share the same base, so companies can customize already-deployed chassis with multiple bay configurations and support for additional 6Gbps ports.

other areas. "Chenbro products are ideally suited for data center environments," Lee says. "We know what the data center customer wants and what solutions are widely used in data centers. Chenbro has years of experience and can utilize this knowledge for data center customers."

The key to supporting private and public clouds lies in the flexibility of Chenbro's chassis. A company can use the same chassis base for multiple configurations. For instance, a company with a smaller private cloud may need a 24-bay

Unique Configurations & In-Depth Customization

Chenbro manufactures a few different server chassis models designed specifically for cloud environments. The 1U models are the RM13702 and the RM13704, which support either 2-bay or 4-bay 3.5-inch configurations as well 2-port or 4-port 6Gbps SATA backplanes. The 2U models are the RM23508, RM23512, and the RM23524, which support 6Gbps Mini-SAS (with or without an expander

Chenbro's in-house engineers all have at least 10 to 15 years of chassis designing experience, and the parts used to make the chassis are built using a hardtooling technique that makes them higher quality and less expensive than softtooled alternatives. Chenbro also has a large database comprising thousands of parts than can be used to customize individual chassis and meet the unique requirements of individual companies.

Advanced Testing For Ultimate Durability

One of the most important factors when purchasing a chassis is durability and reliability. After all, a chassis is designed to house and protect the inner components of a server or PC. To help ensure the highest possible quality and life span of its products, Chenbro performs in-house thermal and vibration testing on all of its products.

"A customer can provide the exact specifications of their system for the best possible configuration for testing," Lee says. After the testing phase, Chenbro will send you a product that will not only meet your current needs, but also maintain its high level of performance for

years to come.

Contact: (909) 947-3200 www.chenbro.com

"We have multiple product lines suited for cloud computing and provide one-stop purchasing for customers, from PC to server chassis solutions."

- Chenbro's Ares Lee

Support For Any Cloud Environment

Chenbro understands that not every cloud environment is exactly the same, just as no two companies are exactly the same. The company built its cloud-based solutions to support both public and private clouds based on its experience with customers in local government, medical, homeland security, online retailers, and

4U chassis, while an enterprise with a large-scale public cloud might need a 48-bay chassis. This same modularity allows Chenbro chassis to grow alongside the company, helping you meet your current needs but being flexible enough to adapt to future needs, as well. Instead of purchasing an entirely new product, you can switch out a few components with less hassle and expense.

depending on the model) and eight, 12, or 24 bays. And the larger 4U models, comprising the RM41824, RM41848, RM41736, and RM41772, have many of the same features as the 2U models but with additional support for larger bay configurations. Similar-sized models often share the same chassis base and can be configured or reconfigured based on company needs at the time.

3. What is your annual computer hardware/ software purchasing budget?

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□ 200 to 499 □ 500 to 999 □ 1,000+

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News

Oracle Posts Mixed Financial Results, **Expects Growth In Q4**

Oracle released its third-quarter financial results, which showed growth in net income but a drop in hardware systems revenue. The company's net income rose 18% during the quarter, and revenues climbed 3%; however, its hardware systems revenues saw a 16% drop to \$869 million. Oracle remains optimistic about the next quarter, citing growth in new software license revenues, which climbed 7% to \$2.4 billion, and predicting fourth-quarter hardware revenue of \$870 million to \$980 million. The company maintains that it is not interested in competing in the commodity hardware market, choosing instead to focus on specialized systems.

■ Apple Sells 3 Million Third-Gen iPads In First Weekend

According to numbers from Apple, the company sold 3 million of its third-generation iPad tablets in the first weekend following the devices' release. The sales represent the strongest

iPad launch yet, according to Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide marketing, who cites the device's Retina display, quad-core processor, and full HD video capabilities as big draws for consumers. The first iteration of the ubiquitous tablet was released in the spring of 2010, and iPads now account for the vast majority of tablet sales.



growth. Specifically, the Imaging and Printing Group and the Personal Systems Group will combine to form the Printing and Personal Systems Group, which will be headed by Todd Bradley, who has been the executive vice president of the Personal Systems Group since 2005. As part of the reorganization, Vyomesh Joshi, executive vice president of the Imaging and Printing Group, will retire from his position. HP's Imaging and Printing Group brought in \$6.3 billion in the last quarter, while the Personal Systems Group—responsible for laptops and PCs-brought in \$8.9 billion; the two divisions are responsible for about half of HP's total sales. The company plans to make several other reorganizational changes in an effort to increase efficiency, drive innovation, and improve customer experience.

effort to improve performance and encourage

October Launch Expected For Windows 8

Though Microsoft has made no official announcement yet, Bloomberg is reporting that the company will release its new Windows operating

> system, Windows 8, in October. Bloomberg says the tech giant will wrap up production of the new OS over the summer, and it's likely the company will mimic the October release of Win8's predecessor, Windows 7, which was released on Oct. 22, 2009. Win8's release is a big one for Microsoft, with the operating system's tablet version aimed at making a dent in Apple's sizeable domination of the tablet market; a version for traditional PCs will also be available.

■ EMC Buys Pivotal Labs

Storage company EMC announced that it

■ HP To Combine Printer & PC Divisions

HP has announced plans to combine its printer

This information provides a quick glimpse of current and historical stock prices and trends for 13 major companies in the technology market.

NOTE: This information is meant for reference only and should not be used as a basis for buy/sell decisions.

Company	Symbol	Year Ago	March 15 \$	March 29 \$	% change from previous issue
AMD	AMD	\$8.60	\$8.25	\$8.12	▼ 1.58%
Apple	AAPL	\$348.51	\$585.56	\$609.86	▲ 4.15%
CA Technologies	CA	\$24.18	\$27.57	\$27.67	▲ 0.36%
Cisco Systems	CSCO	\$17.15	\$19.91	\$21.03	▲ 5.63%
Dell	DELL	\$14.51	\$17.35	\$16.60	v 4.32%
Google	GOOG	\$586.76	\$621.13	\$648.41	4 .39%
HP	HPQ	\$40.97	\$24.40	\$23.51	▼ 3.65%
IBM	IBM	\$163.07	\$206	\$208.27	▲ 1.1%
Intel	INTC	\$20.18	\$27.75	\$28.16	▲ 1.48%
LinkedIn	LNKD	n/a	\$92.40	\$102.67	▲ 11.11%
Microsoft	MSFT	\$25.39	\$32.85	\$32.12	▼ 2.22%
Oracle	ORCL	\$33.43	\$30.06	\$29.30	▼ 2.53%
Red Hat Software	RHT	\$45.39	\$50.73	\$61.43	1 21.09%
Symantec	SYMC	\$18.54	\$18.19	\$18.40	▲ 1.15%

Pivotal Labs is known for its Pivotal Tracker, a software application that allows developers to collaborate remotely to speed up software development. It also makes software for mobile, enterprise, and Web businesses such as Twitter, Groupon, and Best Buy. The acquisition is an effort on EMC's part to strengthen its software development abilities in order to be better able to offer its hardware platforms as services and to successfully leverage cloud computing, Big Data, and social and mobile platforms in the development of next-generation applications. The acquisition is an all-cash transaction, though specific numbers have not been released.

\$100,000 to \$249,999

□ \$250,000 to \$499,999

□ \$500,000 to \$999,000

□ \$1,000,000+

■ Groups Sued Over Mobile Apps

A number of big-name companies, including Facebook, Apple, and Twitter, are the subjects of a class-action suit concerning invasion of privacy filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. In all, 18 companies have been named in the suit, which alleges that the companies surreptitiously gathered data from the address books of millions of smartphone users. The plaintiffs hope to earn a permanent injunction against this type of data collection and seek the destruction of all such personal data that's already been collected by the defendants. The suit takes much of its inspiration from an article that appeared in The New York Times, which highlighted the data collection practices.

Study Highlights Benefits Of IT Trade Pact Expansion

A new study from the ITIF (Information Technology and Information Foundation) shows that expanding the ITA (Information Technology Agreement), launched in 1996, could be a major boon to the U.S. economy—to the tune of 60,000 new jobs and a \$10 billion increase in U.S. IT firms' revenues. Currently, a number of significant types of products are not covered in the ITA, including DRAM chips, DVD players, GPS devices, and flat-panel displays, many of which were not available when the ITA was first drafted. Expanding the trade pact to include these and other products would benefit other countries besides the United States, the ITIF says; more than 70 companies have signed the agreement, and developing countries account for more than 40% of ITA membership.

Security Test Finds **DNSSEC Holes In 40%** Of U.S. Government Web Sites

About 40% of federal government agencies, such as the Department of Defense and the CIA, are lagging in the deployment of DNSSEC (DNS Security Extensions) on their Web sites, a recent study found. Implementation of the DNSSEC security

standard was mandated by the Office of Management and Budget, with a deadline for compliance set for Dec. 31, 2009; however, three years later, only about 60% of government Web sites were found to be in compliance in security tests conducted by DNS vendor Secure64 and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. DNSSEC provides an extra layer of authentication that prevents hackers from redirecting Web traffic to bogus sites.

■ Mobile Threats Surge To Record High

According to Kaspersky, malicious threats targeting mobile devices have significantly increased; specifically, 2011 saw six times the number of threats than 2010. The popular Android platform is seemingly the most susceptible to attack; according to Kaspersky, the Android OS had 4,139 modifications and 126 families of mobile threats as of Jan. 1, 2012, compared to Symbian's 435 modifications and 111 families of threats. Kaspersky recorded a total of 5,255 new



modifications and 178 new families in 2011, a vara climb within the last six months of 2011 which actually totals more than all attacks that occurred over the 2004 to 2010 period. SMS Trojans pose the greatest threat, accounting for 36.6% of threats in 2011, followed by backdoors (24.2%) and spyware (20.6%).

Amazon To Acquire Kiva Systems

Online retailer Amazon announced that it is acquiring Kiva Systems for \$775 million. Based in North Reading, Mass., Kiva specializes in automated materials handling, developing software and robots used to speed up workflows in warehouses; Amazon plans to use Kiva's products in its warehouses and fulfillment centers to improve its ability to process orders faster and more efficiently. The acquisition will bolster Amazon's order fulfillment capabilities; however, whether the increased automation will result in a reduction in employees remains to be seen. The deal has been approved by shareholders at both companies and is expected to close in the second quarter of this year.

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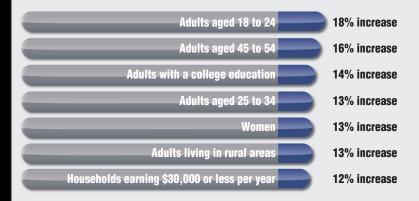
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More Smartphones vs. Feature Phones In U.S.

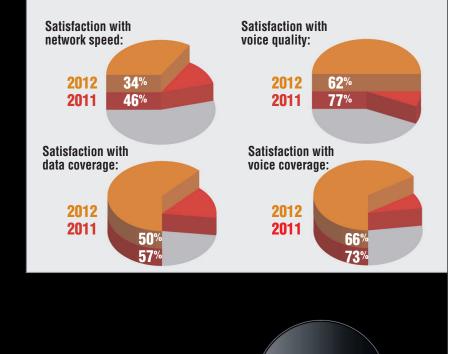
According to research from the Pew Internet and American Life Project, smartphones are now more prevalent than feature phones among U.S. adults who own mobile devices. The survey revealed that 88% of all American adults own a cell phone, with 46% owning a smartphone. The operating systems most used in the United States include Android (20%), iOS (19%), and BlackBerry (6%). Here is a breakdown of the demographics most helping to strengthen smartphone ownership year over year:



Smartphone Data Demand Drives Consumer Satisfaction Down

According to iPass, due to the popularity of smartphones and the increased consumption of data, consumers are less and less satisfied with their cellular mobile networks. About 62% of those surveyed in a recent iPass study said they are satisfied with their mobile carriers' coverage—a 25% drop from the year before. Wireless data traffic increased 111% year over year, according to the CTIA, which largely contributes to the lower-than-expected quality of service. Below is a look at several factors affecting user satisfaction and the changes in ratings year over year:

Year vs. percentage of satisfied consumers:



Apple Announces Dividend & Stock Buyback

Apple announced it will pay out dividends starting in the fiscal fourth quarter and buy back \$10 billion of the company's shares. The plan will happen over the course of the next three years; stockholders can expect to receive \$2.65 per share starting in July. Apple has not paid a dividend since 1995. The company currently holds nearly \$100 billion in cash after overwhelming success of its iPad, iPhone, iPod, and Mac devices. The dividend payout will cost about \$2.5 billion each quarter, according to the company; Apple estimates it will spend \$45 billion of its cash holdings through 2015. Buzz surrounding the announcement led to a record high price per share of \$601.10.

■ IDC Report: Disk Storage Market Makes Q4 Gains

According to IDC's quarterly report on disk storage systems, fourth-quarter revenues in the market reached more than \$8.5 billion—a 3.5% increase year over year. The disk storage system capacity (in terms of total devices shipped) increased 22.4% from the same time last year, reaching 6,279 petabytes. EMC is the No. 1 external disk storage maker with a 29.4% share of market revenue, followed by IBM with 15.2%, NetApp with 11.2%, and HP with 10.3% of the market. Global factory revenues rose 10.6% year over year in the external disk storage systems market, reaching \$23.5 billion total in 2011.

Personal Cloud To Overtake PCs, Gartner Says

According to research

from Gartner, the personal cloud experience, which will be accessible by multiple devices in a single user's arsenal, will supersede the personal computer by 2014. Gartner says consumer cloud services will be integrated into 90% of all consumer devices by 2015. Such services will allow users to sync, store, stream, and share content with others using several devices, such as tablets, smartphones, PCs, and televisions. Google, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft, and Netflix are the current market leaders in this industry, which Gartner says will pull in \$2.2 trillion in sales of content, devices, and services. The main contributors to the personal cloud trend, according to the research firm, include con-

■ PC Shipments To See Weak Growth

ability, and mobility.

sumerization, virtualization, apps, self-service-

Gartner is predicting weak growth for the PC market throughout 2012, forecasting a small 4.4% increase over the course of the year. The research firm is predicting about 368 million PCs to be sold this year and sees 2013 as a slightly more successful year with an expected 400 million units to ship. Although the estimate is a small increase, the slow growth is welcomed compared to the relatively flat growth in 2011. Gartner listed the tablet market as the main inhibitor to PC sales, as it may be slowly changing computing habits among consumers; however, the release of ultrabook PCs and Windows 8 later this year will likely help the market, the company says.

■ IBM Optical Chip Boasts Speed & Resourceful New Tech

IBM has developed an optical chip capable of transferring data at 1Tbps. The Holey Optochip uses light pulses to speed up the transfer of data vs. using electrons through

wires. IBM expects the chip to be used in future supercomputers and data center applications. All components used to make the chip are currently commercially available, so the design could be widely used for both corporate and consumer networks. The lower-cost, higher-speed chip is eight times faster than comparable optical components currently available, according to the company. Additionally, the chip boasts a more ecofriendly power efficiency with a transceiver consuming less than 5 watts.

■ Big Data Needs Expected To Soar, Creating New Opportunities In The Market

According to a report from IDC, the market for big data solutions will reach \$16.9 billion by 2015, a steep climb from \$3.2 billion in 2010. IDC estimates a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of about 40% for this industry, a rate the research firm says is seven times that of the overall information and communications tech market. IT data is growing so large that new ways to handle such large amounts of data are needed—including software, database management tools, frameworks, hardware, and software—making this a profitable industry with opportunities for startups and existing vendors, IDC says.

Report Says Chip Market Will Soon Recover

According to a recent Gartner forecast, the global semiconductor industry will increase 4% to hit \$316 billion in revenue this

forecasted a 2.2% growth
for the year, but it has
raised its expectations
now that inventories
are back to normal
and the global economic outlook is
stabilizing. Other
markets expected
to experience growth
include PC unit production, with a predicted
4.7% increase; mobile
phone production, with a

year. Gartner had previously

tion, with an outstanding 78% increase expected year over year. The research firm also noted that it expects 2013 to experience even greater growth rates.

6.7% increase; and tablet produc-

■ Cisco To Acquire NDS Group

Cisco Systems announced it will purchase NDS Group, a digital video software and content security systems maker, for about \$5 billion. The acquisition, according to the company, will boost Cisco's own Videoscape platform and help the company to expand into emerging markets. The acquisition has been approved by both companies' boards but is subject to regulatory review before the merger can be completed. Cisco says the companies will continue to operate separately until the deal is finalized, which they expect to happen in the second half of 2012. Additionally, all NDS operations, and about 5,000 employees, will join the Cisco team.

■ iPad Can Help In Healthcare Field

The new third-generation iPad may enable better provider management of patient data in a healthcare setting, thanks to its Bluetooth 4.0 connectivity. With the Bluetooth option, the extremely popular tablet will now be able to offer physicians direct access to patient data without conducting complicated tests on the patient. According to the Bluetooth Special Interest Group, Bluetooth-connected devices will be able to use data collection sensor devices to find a patient's heart rate and pulse, temperature, weight, and glucose levels—making the iPad a unique and valued support tool in this industry.

News

IDC Releases 2011 Chip Market Figures

Intel continued its domination of the global microprocessor market in 2011, accounting for more than 80% of microprocessor shipments for the year, according to semiconductor researchers at IDC. Intel's rival AMD saw a slight increase in chip shipments for the year, climbing 0.7% to reach 19.7%. Overall, shipments of processor units increased 3.6% from 2010 to 2011, IDC says; revenues rose 13.2%, with the average selling price for PC microprocessors increasing more than 9% during 2011. Intel's best showing is in the server space, where its share climbed to 94.5%. AMD's share of that space is just 5.5%; however, its share of the mobile PC chip market grew to 16%.

■ T-Mobile To Start Layoffs At Call Centers

T-Mobile announced that it would cut 1,900 jobs from now through July in order to offset customer losses and the massive sums the company has invested in boosting the brand. Deutsche Telekom, T-Mobile's parent company, was unable to sell T-Mobile to AT&T after that merger was opposed by both government regulators and mobile market competitors. The company will be slashing jobs in its call centers only, as it plans to reduce the total number of call centers from 24 to 17 by July. Although some call center locations will be hiring, several centers across the United States are planned to close completely, including locations in Texas, Kansas, Colorado, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.

■ Report: Majority Of Data Breaches In 2011 Were Preventable

According to a recent report by Verizon, the majority of data breaches last year could have been prevented; the company says that 97% of the cyber attacks that took place in 2011 used simple methods. Verizon's study found for the first time that large hacker groups, such as Anonymous, accounted for more data breaches than all single breaches of personal data and financial information combined. Out of the 850 data breaches the company looked into, many occurred because the companies were not using a firewall, had ports open to the Web, or used uncomplicated and easyto-guess passwords—all of which could have been easily prevented, according to Verizon. Additionally, the report found that larger enterprises, especially those in the finance and insurance industries, were most likely to be the victims of a targeted attack.



Bandwidth Usage To Increase

IDC released a report detailing worldwide mobile data usage, saying that broadband traffic will double every year through 2015 because of the high global demand. IDC also says data traffic is disproportionately distributed to users—a smaller group of users is consuming the largest amount of bandwidth. The research firm says that data usage by those users with faster broadband speeds available to them will increase based on capacity increases alone. The popularity of streaming HD video is upping the bandwidth consumption. Overall, worldwide Internet traffic will rise to about 966 exabytes per year in 2015, according to a separate report from Cisco released last year.

■ Smartphone Data Hogs Revealed

Recent tests using a Droid RAZR helped to unveil the amount of data bandwidth a smartphone activity or application uses. The results showed that movie streaming required the most data bandwidth by far, with high-definition videos eating up about double the bandwidth of standard-definition videos. Ten minutes of standard video viewing per day adds up to at least 1GB per month. Music streaming can also consume a great amount of data; for example, streaming a Pandora station for one hour each day will add up to about 1.76GB of data per month. Games, video chatting, and accessing social media sites are also within the list of top data consumers.

Apple Likely To Take Top Spot In Mobile Processor Market

According to an In-Stat report, Apple could soon be the largest mobile processor company worldwide by the end of the year. Intel topped the mobile processor market in 2011, but Apple was No. 2, riding on the success of the iPad and iPhone. In terms of the exact percentage of the market, Apple took a 13.5% share compared to Intel's 13.9% share. With the increasing growth rates of both tablets and smartphones, Apple is likely to catch up to Intel by the year's end, especially because Intel has virtually no presence in the smartphone processor market.

Google's New Privacy Policy Sparking Questions

Following Google's release of its new privacy policy, European Union regulators are demanding that the company answer questions about the new policy. In particular, the French National Commission on Computing and Liberty is requesting that Google make known which services it processes in terms of credit card data, device-specific information, telephony logs, GPS or location information, and any other unique device identifiers. Although Google has no obligation to answer the many questions from the commission, all responses (if answered) would be confidential unless Google wanted the information released to the public.

DARPA In Search Of Monitoring **Technologies To Use In The Arctic**

DARPA (the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) is researching options for monitoring conditions in the Arctic region as polar ice caps melt and shipping activity increases in the region. The agency is looking into environmentally friendly sensor technology that can monitor the area above and below the ice while eliminating the need for more expensive means, such as manned ships or submarines, aircraft, or satellites. DARPA is looking for two types of technology in particular: surface awareness, which uses ice distribution and narrow passageways to keep the waters safe, and under-ice awareness, which analyzes under-ice acoustic propagation and noise to enable the use of unmanned autonomous systems.

Offshoring Greatly **Contributing To Declining Number Of IT Jobs**

According to consulting firm The Hackett Group, IT jobs at large enterprises are dwindling in number as many of those jobs are moved to other countries. Offshoring has significantly affected the IT hiring market; the firm estimates that the number of jobs in the main fields affected by offshoring (human resources, finance, procurement, and IT) will fall from 8.2 million (reached in 2002) to 4.5 million in 2016. Currently, Hackett estimates that there are about 1.8 million U.S. and European IT jobs represented in its recent report, but 270,000 of those jobs will be moved offshore by 2016. The declining number of U.S.-based IT personnel is "completely attributable to offshoring," according to the firm.

Cost Of Data Breaches **Down In 2011**

According to the Ponemon Institute's seventh annual U.S. Cost of a Data Breach report, the average cost of a data breach fell 24% from 2010 to 2011—down from \$7.2 million to \$5.5 million—marking the first time in seven years that the institute has seen a decline in costs. A number of factors contributed to the decrease, researchers say: The average size of data breaches went down 16%, and "abnormal churn," or customers who defect following a data breach, decreased 18% year over year; additionally, detection costs also decreased about 6% from 2010 to 2011. Ponemon found that negligent insiders were the top cause of data breaches, while breaches caused by malicious attacks are 25% more expensive to organizations than any other type. The institute gathered its data by examining the actual data breach experiences of 49 U.S.based companies in 14 different industries.

■ HTML5 Interest Up Among Mobile Developers

A recent survey conducted by IDC shows that mobile developers are increasingly interested in integrating HTML5 into their applications, with 79% of the developers surveyed indicating that they would be using the technology. Despite the increased interest, IDC predicts that fragmentation will continue to be a problem for developers, as HTML5 has no set standard, meaning that different browsers consume content in different ways and the applications have to take those differences

into account. Platform-wise, Apple's devices are tops in developer interest, with 89% saying they want to develop applications for the iPhone and 88% showing interest in developing for the iPad. Conversely, developer interest fell slightly for Android-based devices, with 79% wanting to develop for Android smartphones this year compared to 87% a year ago; IDC attributes the

decline largely to fragmentation, as Android devices are less standardized than Apple devices.

Groups Working To Establish Cell-To-Wi-Fi Roaming

The GSM Association and the Wireless Broadband Alliance are working together to



establish a framework for service providers to set up roaming systems that will automatically hand off devices between mobile networks and Wi-Fi hotspots. The aim of the groups is to use Wi-Fi to seamlessly and automatically increase network speeds and provide extra capacity for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets without requiring the user to hunt for a Wi-Fi network on his own. The cell-to-Wi-Fi roaming capability would be especially helpful to international travelers grappling with different mobile networks; however, the groups don't expect carriers to offer free international roaming through Wi-Fi partners, as it could be a big moneymaker for the carriers.

X-Force Report Reveals **Several Positive Trends In Security**

IBM's X-Force Internet security team recently released its X-Force Trend and Risk Report for 2011, which showed a 50% decline in spam email from 2010 to 2011 and an increase in responsible patching habits among enterprises, with only 36% of software vulnerabilities going unpatched in 2011 compared to 43% in 2010. Other positive trends include a 30% decline in the availability of exploit code and a 50% decline in crosssite scripting vulnerabilities. The report also highlighted new challenges, including growth in social phishing and other social mediabased attacks, a jump in automated password guessing, and an increase in attacks targeting shell command injection vulnerabilities.

Study Highlights Vulnerabilities In Open-Source Code Libraries

than a third of the 1,261 existing versions of 31 popular open-source tained known vulnerabilities, and past 12 months were tainted. The vulnerabilities are a problem because applications

According to data from Aspect

Security and Sonatype, more

clear way to highlight problems within the libraries or to identify remedies for vulnerabilities when a fix is made available. The companies' findings show that security code libraries are, ironically, more likely to have known vulnerabilities than frameworks, and the types of vulnerabilities found in the opensource code libraries can vary widely.

code libraries con-26% of the library downloads in the are increasingly being

constructed out of code con-

tained in the libraries, with no

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All products listed have been released recently, so use this section to get up to date with what's new on the market and to find products you need.

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No Limits Software is a leading provider of data center management solutions, including asset and change management, capacity planning and real-time monitoring. RaMP, their flagship product, is a unique solution which automates asset and change management as well as enhancing the accuracy of capacity planning through the real-time monitoring of power, cooling and environmental data. The RaMP solution allows you to understand and more effectively operate your data center by managing both IT and Facilities assets and their relationships. RaMP dramatically reduces the time to find and repair equipment, improves system availability and increases data center energy efficiency by providing accurate data for



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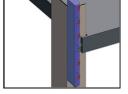
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April 6, 2012

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SIX QUICK TIPS

Monitor Data Center Batteries

Ensure Backup Power Is Ready When You Need It

WITH SO MANY CRITICAL components to worry about in a data center, it can be easy to put smaller systems on the back burner. One example is the data center's batteries. Even companies that have implemented battery monitoring systems sometimes do not take the proper precautions to ensure their batteries are working as they should. Mike Daffron, director of sales and marketing at API (www.apibattery.com), says it's not unusual to find companies with monitoring systems that aren't in working order, properly wired, or even turned on. "We've found battery systems that would not carry the load if they were called upon," Daffron says. "If they had a working battery monitoring system or regimented battery maintenance in place, this would not happen." Such negligence can leave batteries unable to supply backup power to mission-critical applications, resulting in downtime. To avoid such a costly occurrence, consider the following.

✓ Understand What's At Stake

According to James Hall, marketing manager at Staco Energy Products (www stacoenergy.com), proactive battery monitoring provides the necessary data to ensure that batteries will be ready when needed to support critical operations. Among the top causes of UPS load losses, he says, batteries rank No. 1—responsible for more than one-third of power interruptions—both as primary emergency power backup and as the source of cross-over power for starting backup generators. "This begs the question, why do so many IT managers focus on primary architectures and solutions and treat backup power sources as second citizens?" Hall says.

Mike Phillips, national sales manager at BTECH (www.btechinc.com), cites the saying, "You can't manage it if you don't trend and track it" to illustrate the importance of battery monitoring, which eliminates the guesswork if batteries will be operational when needed. "Many facilities still rely on out-of-date battery data collected manually," he says. "Many times, this data isn't even reviewed until there is a problem." Anu Cherian, Frost & Sullivan senior industry analyst, says aggressive investments in monitoring each battery's strength can ensure downtime doesn't prevent the UPS from functioning optimally. Parameters to check, Cherian says, include internal resistance and DC test current to ensure that measurements are accurate and can be repeated. "Preventive maintenance is the key answer to these problems, and these are offered by many UPS OEMs in achieving high battery uptime and, therefore, optimal UPS performance," Cherian says.

✓ What To Watch For

To mitigate risks, Hall says, monitor and control such conditions as bad cells, which he says must be replaced before they affect other cells, and temperatures. "The IEEE recommends maintaining batteries at 77 degrees Fahrenheit," Hall says. "Changes in temperature, especially extreme heat, can affect batteries' life span. For every 15-degree increase in temperature, battery life is cut in half." You should also account for voltage and resistance level balance in all redundant strings, he says.

Phillips notes that battery monitors possess various feature sets. "A simple monitor will count the depth, duration, and frequency of the discharges on the battery system. More evolved monitors will not only measure the discharge data but

also measure the jar voltages and temperatures," he says. A full-featured monitor will add impedance measurements and cell-level monitoring when possible, he says. Daffron further advises managers to visually inspect battery systems at least

once a month, looking for corrosion and other abnormalities.

V Test, Test, Test

A properly designed battery monitoring system, Phillips says, combines a monitoring appliance and software. The appliance should collect data at the system, string, and unit levels (cell or jar) and monitor float and discharge current, unit voltage, impedance, and temperature. Overall, he says, "the appliance should be able to collect IEEE-compliant discharge data. The software should enable the user to analyze data in both graphic and report formats. Data collection should be automatic, and the data should be accessible on a LAN/ WAN environment. Integration is key, and some open protocols should be supported (Modbus, SNMP, etc.)."

Critical battery status data, Hall says, enables managers to ensure that capacity conditions and permanent availability of high-quality energy is continually met. "Real-time status should be compared to battery configuration settings and network parameter settings, with deviations recorded in an events log and used to trigger email or dry-contact alarms," he says. "With a proactive battery monitoring system, you can schedule battery replacement at convenient times and ensure that the system is fully charged and operational for peak or high-demand occasions." Cherian notes that different testing parameters have different ideal intervals for execution. For example, impedance testing is non-invasive, quick, and should be done ideally every quarter, and discharge testing should be performed during installation and again in two to three years, while temperatures should be monitored daily, Cherian says.

Most Practical Tip:

✓ Don't Eliminate Service Contracts

Mike Daffron, director of sales and marketing at API (www.apibattery. com), says that although some managers reason that by installing a battery monitoring system, they can eliminate service contracts with their preventive battery maintenance providers for hands-on inspections, companies should avoid discontinuing such a "check-and-balance" system. "What's important to note is the monitoring system can lower your battery maintenance costs, but we certainly don't want to say it eliminates them," Daffron says.

Smartest Tip:

✓ Don't Neglect Preventive Maintenance

Despite the importance of battery systems, "battery monitoring is sometimes put on the bottom of the list," says Mike Daffron, director of sales and marketing at API (www.apibattery.com) Although some managers have a holistic understanding of why preventive maintenance is necessary, he says, others enlist an "out of sight, out of mind" mentality where their battery monitoring systems are concerned and neglect maintenance. "The battery monitoring systems really help owners see their batteries' general health status in real time," he says.

BONUS TIPS:

✓ Enlist proper disposal.

James Hall, marketing manager at Staco Energy Products (www.stacoen ergy.com), says it can't be overstated that "batteries are considered hazardous waste." Federal law, he says, requires all used lead-acid batteries to be managed as universal waste. "For this reason alone, facilities with lead-acid, valve-regulated, or wet cell/flooded batteries should consider hiring approved firms to handle all battery installations, maintenance, and disposal," he says. "The potential for spills, improper disposal, and resulting liability are just too great."

✓ Don't skip reinstallation.

Installing replacement monitoring systems can be daunting, Hall says, as wired monitoring systems require removing and reinstalling hundreds of similar-looking wires leading to termination points that are not always visible. Further, replacement batteries aren't typically the same as those they're replacing, complicating reinstallation and resulting in wiring errors that are difficult to troubleshoot and correct, he says. Still, he says, don't pass on reinstallation systems because "batteries have useful lives of three to five years, max, making battery monitoring a critical part of predicting battery health and premature failure before it results in system downtime."

✓ Consider Going Wireless

With today's IT budgets being challenged with a "show-me-why mentality," Hall says, companies may be less willing to support battery monitoring, as traditional wired battery monitoring solutions carry high initial and installation costs and an inherent lack of flexibility. Conversely, he says, wireless solutions can offer an effective way to increase availability while ensuring low TCO. Further, proactive battery monitoring no longer fits the wired traditional model, he says. With wireless monitoring, he explains, "initial costs are less than half of traditional wired systems. Installation and programming time and costs are dramatically lower, and configuration and flexible future use ensures the lowest TCO." Above all, he says, IT can use wireless systems with any battery type and systems are ideal for all needs.

Beyond providing real-time feedback, Cherian says, wireless monitoring provides an "ideal and aggressive approach to problem-solving with anticipatory measures to keep battery life at its maximum."

However, BTECH's Phillips says, with wireless systems you need to consider potential security issues. For example, he says, high-security government and commercial facilities will not consider wireless technolo-

gies because of the risk involved in using 802.1 and ZigBee-type technologies.

FEATURED PRODUCT

Does Your NAC Solution **Answer These Questions?**

It Should

WITH SO MANY NAC APPLIANCES and solutions on the market, companies just like yours need to ensure the NAC solution not only fits within the network but is also the most secure. Any NAC Solution should be able to answer the following questions, but unfortunately, many can only answer a few of them, and with varying levels of success.

Who?

One of the biggest mistakes companies make is thinking that Active Directory gives them full control of the "who" aspect of their security solution. What is forgotten is Active Directory does not give control over the packets that can be transmitted from your end nodes (AD or non-AD joined machine). Even without an AD account, I can ping resources, attempt RDP/SSH/Telnet/etc., as well as listen to traffic in an attempt to compromise access. Companies need to take this question one step further and ask who at a MAC Address and Device type level.

What?

What is the device type getting on your network? One of the easiest ways to gain access to a network is to use the cable currently plugged into a networked printer. Even with MAC Filtering on, a rogue computer can easily spoof the same MAC address of the printer and bypass MAC Filtering. Your security solution should once again take this question a step forward and look at the traffic type and ask, "Why is this printer or IP Phone attempting to send traffic to the HR server?"

Where?

Where is your traffic coming from, and where is it going? Many security solutions will only check one of these two. To make an informed decision whether the traffic is appropriate, a security solution should be checking both. An HR AD account coming in on an engineering VLAN (plugged in at engineering desks) should not be making requests to the Accounting server.

When?

Many of us work long hours and occasionally late into the night. Odds are though, a majority of the year, access to the financial system is not needed after hours. Can your security solution block access after hours to the accounting server for 11 months and 3 weeks, but allow access during the week of April 15th?

How?

Network traffic all looks similar to the human eye. An HTTP request sent over port 80 looks nearly identical to an HTTP request sent over port 27387. Does your security solution take the "What" into account and ask why is this printer sending HTTP

requests? Or SQL requests? How a device is expected to communicate and look for anomalies outside of that norm is important.

How Often?

Now that you've considered all the security questions listed above, there is one last question you must answer for yourself. Is my security solution ready to take action 24 hours a day, or is there a delay between checks? Can I authenticate with one device, swap the network cable to another device, and gain access from an unauthorized

Milton Security Group is assembling the ultimate portable pen test kit based on the most highly requested items. What would you include? Send your comments, and

keep up with The Hacket's progress at www.miltonstart.com/blog

The Hacket is comprised of a SCOTTEVEST® Transformer Jacket, and contents thus far include a Gateway LT3119n with BackTrack 5 R2, two Alfa Antennas, Wi-Spy 2.4x, Apple iPod Touch, and lock pick kit. More items will be added to make the portable pen test kit complete. One lucky winner will receive The Hacket during Interop. in Las Vegas, May 8-10.

device before the security solution returns to check that I still pass the policies?

If you do not feel confident that your current solution can successfully answer each of these questions for every packet crossing your network, visit www .miltonsecurity.com and see how the Edge Series can give your answers to each of these questions. The Edge Series is the Adaptive NAC Solution from Milton Security Group and is the only one that can do all of this, with solutions starting from less than \$3 per day.



QUICK TIPS

Data Center Cleaning Services

Enlist Experts To Help Keep Your Data Center In Tip-Top Shape

IT CAN BE EASY SOMETIMES to focus on servers, storage solutions, rack mounts, network cabling, and every other component of a data center, but completely forget about how important it is to keep it clean. "The data center is the brain and central nervous system of the organization," says Tom Conners,

market manager for data centers at Square Care (www.squarecare .com). "Unclean areas negatively affect the performance and longevity of the equipment. Large data center operations can lose up to \$1 million per minute due to systems outages brought on by processor performance degradation."

For most companies it simply isn't feasible to clean their own data centers, but as Conners suggests, that doesn't mean it can be ignored. Investing in data center cleaning services is a great way to remove dust and other particles from your infrastructure. We'll show you what to look for in a data center cleaning service provider and how they can help you maintain your components for years to come.

Research Potential Cleaning Firms

It's important that you don't rush into choosing a data center cleaning service, because there are multiple factors to consider that may make one firm fit your needs better than another. Not every data center is created equal, and many of them have unique cleaning needs that not all cleaning services can address. You should not only research what cleaning firms offer, but also look at their reputation and guarantees.

"A seasoned cleaning firm will have a standard operating procedure from start to finish with checks and balances to ensure the center was cleaned properly and within industry standards," says Bill Montgomery, founder of Premier Solutions Co. (www .premiersolutionsco.com). "The service is 90% labor, so the training levels of personnel, length of time employed, etc., needs to be presented and reviewed."

Montgomery also suggests looking at a cleaning firm's track record and how long it has been in business. He even recommends going as deep as finding out what types of cleaning products the firm uses because they are "the tools of the trade and should be of high quality." Finding out exactly what services a cleaning firm offers and what kind of quality you can expect should narrow down your list of choices and help you make an informed decision.

Compare The Costs

After you've compared the reputation and provided services of a cleaning firm, you should next look at the pricing options they offer and budget for how much it will cost to clean your specific data center. A lot of factors go into the overall price of a cleaning service, and you should make sure you get exactly what you're paying for.

"Cleaning costs are typically a function of size of the area to be cleaned, the scope of the cleaning effort, and the level of contamination present," says Rich Hill, president of Data Clean (www.dataclean.com). "Other factors impacting cost are equipment density within the environment, travel

for cleaning staff, work hour restrictions, access constraints, and general housekeeping. Cleaning can range from less than 25 cents per square foot to \$3 per square foot, depending on all of the foregoing." You should also look at what is being

cleaned for the price you pay and the level

of cleaning being performed. There may be specific situations, such as after construction or in the wake of a disaster, where you will need more in-depth cleaning services than on an annual floor cleaning. One type of cleaning may take more time than another, which could affect the overall pricing of the service, as well.

✓ Know What Can Be Cleaned

According to Conners, "everything can and should be cleaned." That covers everything from all access floors and floor panels, walls, ceilings, and light fixtures to server racks, UPS units, panels, and more. It may seem overwhelming that all of these data center components will need to be cleaned at some point, but that's where data center cleaning services come in to play. And the best cleaning firms have practices in place that will leave no stone unturned.

Conners says that data center cleaning is usually performed in stages. Firms normally start by cleaning above-floor light fixtures, racking, and equipment before moving on to under-floor and surface floor cleaning. The process is completed carefully to avoid touching wires, cables, and electrical parts of equipment. According to Conners, "at all times, the emphasis is on safety, through the use of cones, signage, safety glasses, and a solid, consistent process." These extra precautions will make sure that your infrastructure isn't damaged and that everyone at the data center is safe during the cleaning process.

✓ Spot The Subtle Benefits

Always keep in mind that data center cleaning does much more than keep your physical infrastructure free of dust and debris. It also reflects positively or negatively on your company from both your employees' and customers' points of view. "People who work in a clean facility are more productive and healthier because they aren't breathing in a lot contaminants every day," Hill says. "And a clean facility is a positive reflection on management. Visitors and customers will perceive the facility as well-run if it's clean."

Best Tip:

✓ Establish Cleanliness Standards & Policies

One of the easiest ways to avoid extra expenses related to cleaning is to put a few standards into place that will minimize the chance of dirtying or damaging your data center. For instance, Tom Conners, market manager for data centers at Square Care (www.squarecare.com), suggests that you don't allow heavy pallets or carts onto data center flooring and that you shouldn't allow food or drink. Conners also recommends using sticky mats and changing them daily as well as limiting non-essential materials being stored in the data center. Following these standards will help lower the amount of cleaning that will need to be done and therefore lower cleaning expenses.

Smartest Tip:

✓ Keep Track Of Problem Areas

If you notice that one specific part of your data center needs cleaning more often than others, there may be an underlying problem that needs to be addressed. "Track equipment failures, including rack location, position in rack, and cause of failure," says Rich Hill, president of Data Clean (www.dataclean .com). "One failure may not be noteworthy, but several may be indicative of a trend that can be analyzed and solved." By spotting irregularities and adjusting the layout of your data center, if possible, you can reduce cleaning costs and prevent damage to your important physical infrastructure.

BONUS TIPS:

✓ Recognize different levels of cleaning.

"One client may want their server racks cleaned inside and out, with each server wiped down, where accessible, while another may want only the exterior vacuumed, or not touched at all," says Tom Conners, market manager for data centers at Square Care (www.squarecare.com). "Similarly, a client may want every floor tile removed and cleaned top and bottom vs. removing only those panels needed in order to access the entire subfloor."

✓ Set up a cleaning schedule.

"Frequency depends on type of facility, area within the facility, frequency of system maintenance/modification, interior and exterior environment, and age of the facility," Conners says. "Typical frequencies are to clean the under floor annually, the CRAC and UPS or other system areas annually, and the top of floor monthly or semi-annually."

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HOW TO

Improve Your Data Center & Server Security

Build A Hardware & Software Security Approach

SERVER SECURITY, as well as overall data center security, should be one of the main focuses of enterprises and data centers because every business is responsible for storing data and then using that data to help customers and increase profits. "The availability of information is key to everything that we do in the IT industry," says Jeff Clark, general manager of Lindy USA (www.lindy-usa.com). "Leaving your data center unsecure is much like riding a motorcycle without a helmet."

There are many ways to secure your servers and your data center from a hardware and software point of view. We'll show you why you should use a combination of multiple solutions to fully protect your data center from data loss, theft, and physical damage.

Know The Basics Of Server Security

Securing your operating system and applications are two of the three main components to server security, according to Pierluigi Stella, CTO at Network Box USA (www .networkboxusa.com). Although operating systems and applications often have vulner-

abilities once they are available, vendors will usually release patches that will help fill the inherent security holes. But these patches are no help to companies and data centers unless they download them on a regular basis and make sure the system is always up-to-date.

The third component to consider is the security of the data itself. And while Stella says this can be the cause of many headaches for administrators, it can't be ignored. Firewalls, network access controls, data encryption, and other solutions must be used together to prevent outside access to your network and internal systems, and you should also put measures in place that will protect data in case there is an attack. It's important to have a layered approach to server security so viruses and other threats can be caught on any given level before gaining access to sensitive data.

Prevent Unnecessary Physical Access

When it comes to physically securing your data center as well as the servers and other equipment within it, the best place to start is with employee access. You should determine which employees need access to the servers and when they should be allowed to access them. By reducing the number of people with access to servers, you can limit the potential opportunities for equipment to be damaged or compromised.

"To put it simply, put a lock on the door and only give the key to who you want to let in," Clark says. "You need to monitor the entrances and exits to see who comes in and who goes out. You need to look at how people interact with their servers, whether it is with keyboards, mice, [or] USB ports, to establish methods and define what they are allowed to do to prevent abuse."

Consider Modular Server Vaults

For some companies or agencies, the data stored on or passing through servers is so sensitive that advanced physical security measures must be put in place to protect it. But that doesn't mean that a less-sensitive data center can't also benefit from the additional security. Modular server vaults

Key Points

- Understand how important it is to protect your data from every possible angle and know the basic server security measures that should be put in place to protect that data.
- Put physical security measures in place that both prevent access to areas of the data center as well as the physical infrastructure itself, including modular server vaults.
- Look at server security from a hardware and software standpoint. A solid combination of physical and virtual solutions will ensure your sensitive data is secure for years to come.

not only protect servers from unwanted access, but from physical damage due to environmental conditions or other factors, as well. In fact, server vaults are often used by federal agencies or on foreign military sites where extensive physical damage is a distinct possibility.

What makes modular server vaults particularly helpful to data centers in virtually any industry is how they are built to grow alongside and adapt to

> the changing needs of almost any company. "A modular server vault is the opposite of computer hardware because it is never obsolete," says Hugh Smith, owner of FIRELOCK Modular Vaults (www.fire lock.com). "It can be made bigger, smaller, or even change shape, and the modular server vault can be outfitted with any new technology over time."

Understand Each Department's Responsibility

Within a company, there are multiple departments, and each one has its own responsibility when it comes to server security. "Data centers are not involved with software security; they are responsible for physi-

cally securing the hardware, including servers," says Von Williams, director of security and governance at Logicalis (www.us.logicalis.com). "The security for the application running on the server would be the responsibility of the data owner and application developers. System administrators, or data custodians, are responsible for applying the security controls on the server that have been defined by the data owners."

If each department is working separately to manage its own security solutions, then the overall company will benefit from the measures in place. But if there is any fragmentation within or between business segments, there could be unforeseen security vulnerabilities that may not be caught in time to prevent a simple attack or a large-scale disaster.

Action Plan

The following action plan was provided by Jeff Clark, general manager at Lindy USA (www.lindy-usa.com).

- Identify what is most important when it comes to data protection. This can be different from one organization to another based on a variety of circumstances. One company may want to protect customer credit card records, while another is concerned about the introduction of viruses into its network environment.
- Analyze the physical environment to determine which employees actually need physical access to areas within your data center or specific pieces of equipment. This will help you restrict physical access to infrastructure and help you decide whether you should invest in more security measures, such as locking and monitoring systems, blocking points, or installing fingerprint or eye scanners for particularly high-value sections of your data center.
- Look at what types of software and hardware solutions can apply to your particular environment to help reduce unwanted access through the network, including both software- and hardware-based firewall systems, recognition systems, and more. A combined virtual and physical approach will help secure both your sensitive data and the actual equipment where that data is stored.

Get Started

To know the level of protection your servers require, you must first understand how they are used. "Server security is extremely important based on the function the server plays within the company," says Von Williams, director of security and governance at Logicalis (www.us.logicalis.com). "For instance, servers containing company financial or intellectual property should have the highest security controls in place to protect the data and prevent unauthorized employees from accessing that data."

Top Tips

The following tips were provided by Hugh Smith, owner of FIRELOCK Modular Vaults (www.firelock.com).

- Start off with security when designing your data center. IT managers will spend their entire budget on speed and density, while security is ignored.
- ✓ Beware of consultants with ties to the hardware industry. If they start discussing software and firewalls as just more computer equipment, they don't know the whole industry.
- Understand what you're protecting and determine what the real cost of a security infiltration would be.
- Even if you can't afford a full-scale server vault environment, you can at least move your backup tapes and archives to a safe place for little or no cost differential by researching the best providers in your market.

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Data Center Cooling

Product

Black Box Elite™ Cold Aisle Containment System



Description

Use the Elite Cold Aisle Containment System from Black Box to increase cooling efficiency in the data center. With this kit, you can shut off the aisle ends to contain cool air. You'll also create a more efficient cold aisle by reducing air recirculation. The system is exceptionally effective at reducing energy costs, lowering power bills, and increasing cooling capacity.

- Concentrates cool air where it's needed—at the front of equipment.
- Reduce energy costs and increases cooling efficiency.
- Convenient, professional-looking doors seal cold aisles.
- Choose from 42U or 45U high units.

Best For: Data centers of any size interested in increasing their cooling capacity.

Price: \$1,379 for a 42U unit

Contact: (888) 433-5049 www.blackbox.com/go/ColdAisle Black Box ClimateCab™



ClimateCab cabinets from Black Box save energy and money by cooling only the cabinet rather than a whole room or IT center. They feature air-conditioning units that keep equipment cool even with room temperatures up to 130° F. Whether you need to house multiple servers, a PC workstation, or a small amount of rackmount equipment, ClimateCab is the solution to keep everything cool.

- Install equipment without the need for additional cooling or costly infrastructure.
- NEMA 12-rated for protection against dirt, dust, lint, debris, and splashing liquids.
- Locks to protect equipment from tampering.
- Choose from server, data, and wallmount models.

Best For: Housing network equipment outside the protection of a climate-controlled data centers in areas such as factory floors, remote sites, and industrial environments.

Price: Starts at \$2,695.95

Contact: (888) 433-5049 www.blackbox.com/go/ClimateCab Black Box Cold Front™ Passive Liquid Cooling



Black Box's Cold Front data center cooling solution can cut power and cooling costs up to 50%. Cold Front consists of Heat-Transfer Doors and a Coolant Management System. It supports five times the computing power of air-cooled facilities and requires no rearrangement of enclosures. Cold Front returns cooled air into the data center and eliminates the need for hot-aisle/cold-aisle configurations.

- Neutralizes cabinet heat at the source with Heat-Transfer Doors.
- · Installs right on existing cabinets.
- Doors have no moving parts for reliable operation with virtually no maintenance.
- Supports five times the computing power of aircooled facilities.
- Cuts power and cooling costs by 50%.

Best For: Companies of all sizes looking for highefficiency cooling to save on energy costs. Ideal for new installations and retrofits.

Contact: (888) 433-5049 | www.blackbox.com/go/ColdFront

Product

MovinCool Office Pro 18 sold by Rackmount Solutions



Description

The MovinCool Office Pro 18 offers superior cooling capacity without requiring a nonstandard power source. This portable air conditioner protects sensitive data and electronic systems from loss and failure, acting as an insurance policy for your infrastructure. The Office Pro 18 features an intuitive control panel that lets users designate when the unit operates.

- Provides 16,800 BTU/hr of cool air maximum spot cooling
- Operates on a standard 115V power source
- Programmable controls enable weekend and after-hours cooling
- No costly installation necessary
- UL Listed for safe operation

Best For: Heat-sensitive office and data systems.

Price: \$3,655

Contact: (866) 207-6631 | www.rackmountsolutions.net

MovinCool Office Pro 24



Computers, networks, communications, and office equipment will shut down when the temperature rises, crippling daily operations. By bringing spot air conditioning to just the area or room that needs it, the Office Pro 24 saves money while protecting your company's investment in equipment and customers. Self-contained and portable, the Office Pro 24 requires no costly installation—simply roll it in, plug it in, and turn it on.

- 24,000 BTU/hr of maximum spot cooling to just the room that needs it
- Programmable digital controller operates automatically weekends or after hours
- Operates on 220V power
- Provides cooling down to 65 F

Best For: Offices with heat-generating electronics.

Price: \$4,885

Contact: (800) 264-9573 www.movincool.com/dealer.php

MovinCool Office Pro 36 sold by Rackmount Solutions



The MovinCool Office Pro 36 delivers 36,000 BTU/hr of spot cooling for sensitive equipment. The portable, self-contained air conditioner requires no costly installation and features an intuitive control panel that lets users program the unit to operate after hours or on the weekend.

- Provides 36,000 ETL-verified BTU/hr of cool air maximum spot cooling
- Operates on a 208/230V power source
- Features an AFCI plug for added safety against electrical arcing
- Supports plug-and-play condensate pump
- Easy-to-use programmable controls
- Self-contained, portable, and easy to set up and operate

Best For: Servers, routers, telecommunications, and other heat-sensitive equipment.

Price: \$6,980

Contact: (866) 207-6631 | www.rackmountsolutions.net

Processor's Product Spotlight highlights options available in key data center product categories, providing product information side-by-side for easy comparison.

MovinCool CM12 & CM25



The MovinCool CM12 and CM25 are ceiling-mounted air conditioners that are just 15.5 inches (CM12) and 20 inches (CM25) tall, making them compact enough to fit above a drop ceiling for spot cooling space-limited installations and server rooms. The units free up valuable floor space and feature built-in flanges and mounting brackets. The CM25 features a wall-mounted electronic controller that lets users monitor and troubleshoot problems.

- The CM12 provides 10,500 BTU/hr of cool air at 80 degrees Fahrenheit at 50% RH and operates on a standard 115V power source
- The CM25 provides 25,000 BTU/hr of cool air at 80 F at 50% RH and operates on a 208/230V power source
- Can fit into tight ceiling spaces, freeing up floor space

Best For: Space-limited equipment rooms and cramped server and telecom closets.

Price: \$2,895 (CM12), \$6,995 (CM25)

Contact: (800) 264-9573 www.movincool.com/dealer.php

MovinCool CMW30



The MovinCool CMW30 water-cooled model is ideal for applications where an air-cooled unit cannot be used because there is no available space for hot exhaust air. The CMW30 comes standard with a wall-mount controller that offers advanced communications, monitoring, self-diagnostic, and troubleshooting capabilities. It can fit into virtually any drop-ceiling space and doesn't require refrigerant connections or outside condensing units.

- 29,400 BTU/hr total cooling capacity
- High sensible cooling—ideal for server rooms
- Environmentally friendly design—7 IEER, R-410A refrigerant, and RoHS compliant
- Maximum sound level of only 55 dB(A)—5 decibels lower than a normal conversation

Best For: Server rooms and other applications with dense heat loads.

Price: \$7,495

Contact: (800) 264-9573 www.movincool.com/dealer.php

MovinCool Office Pro 12 sold by Rackmount Solutions



The MovinCool Office Pro 12 is a portable spot-cooling air conditioner designed to lower operating temperatures of computers and networking, communications, and office equipment to maximize reliability and hardware life span. The Office Pro 12 is self-contained, portable, and features an electronic thermostat and a programmable control panel for tailored cooling when and where you need it most.

- Provides 12,000 BTU/hr of cool air maximum spot cooling
- Programmable digital controller
- Operates on a standard 115V power source
- No costly installation necessary
- Maintains ideal operating temperature for heat-sensitive electronics, down to 65 degrees Fahrenheit

Best For: Offices filled with heat-generating electronics.

Price: \$3,295

Contact: (866) 207-6631 | www.rackmountsolutions.net

MovinCool Office Pro 60 & 63 sold by Rackmount Solutions



The MovinCool Office Pro 60 and 63 deliver up to 60,000 BTU/hr of cooling capacity. These portable air conditioners are designed to manage temperatures for computer networks, communications equipment, and office electronics. The self-contained Office Pro 60 and 63 are easy to install—just position the wheeled unit, plug it in, and turn it on.

- Programmable digital controller enables weekend and after-hours cooling
- Office Pro 60 operates on a 220V power source;
 Office Pro 63 uses 460V
- Provides cooling in the low 60s to maximize the life span of heat-sensitive electronics
- Condensation pump included for uninterrupted operation
- UL Listed for safe operation

Best For: Large office spaces and computer rooms filled with heat-sensitive electronics.

Price: \$9,995 (Office Pro 60); \$12,495 (Office Pro 63)

Contact: (866) 207-6631 | www.rackmountsolutions.net

MovinCool Office Pro W20



The latest addition to MovinCool's portable air conditioners, the Office Pro W20 has an impressive 15,700 BTU/hr cooling capacity. Because the unit is watercooled, customers need not worry about locating the Office Pro W20 in areas without local hot air exhaust: The unit simply requires a water supply and a standard 115V outlet.

- Programmable digital controller enables weekend and after-hours cooling
- UL listed for safe operation
- Accepts a wide water supply temperature range (40 to 90 F) and a minimum water pressure of only 12 pounds per square inch
- Connects to a fire alarm system to allow emergency shutdown

Best For: Office spaces and IT equipment rooms where hot air exhaust is not available.

Price: \$4,375

Contact: (800) 264-9573 www.movincool.com/dealer.php

Uptime Racks ECC13 Air-Conditioned Computer Cabinet



Uptime Racks ECC13 efficiently cools IT equipment by bringing the cooling directly to the heat source. The ECC13 directs cold air to the front of the cabinet, ensuring that valuable servers remain cool. Uptime Racks provides primary, supplemental, or backup cooling to any environment.

- High cooling capacity: 13,000 BTU/hr at 115V
- Cabinet cooling powered by MovinCool
- 32U of available rack space
- Environmental monitoring
- Cold aisle/hot aisle configuration
- Plug-and-play installation

Best For: Small server rooms or hot spots within larger data centers.

Price: \$8,200

Contact: (303) 908-8043 | www.uptimeracks.com



BUYING TIPS:

Data Center Cooling

FOR DATA CENTER PROFESSIONALS, cooling is as vital a concern as storage capacity and security: Data centers run more efficiently and reliably with the proper temperature, and uptime is everything. Portable cooling options can make a big difference in a temperature-strained environment because of their set-andforget programmability, built-in automation, and modular and mobile form factors, while more permanent solutions can offer reliable cooling and efficiency. With that in mind, there are several tips and key industry trends you need to be aware of before you purchase cooling equipment.

Consider your current hardware and capacity needs. To make the appropriate cooling purchases, decision makers need to consider their current hardware and capacity needs and provide enough scalability to grow with the organization's future data needs. Gina Dickson, product manager at Black Box Network Services (www.blackbox.com), says the primary concern for any organization is how many BTUs it needs to keep equipment at the appropriate temperature. If you go significantly over capacity, then efficiency suffers; too little capacity, and the cooling equipment won't be able to keep up.

Open or closed loop? Another major consideration with cooling equipment is whether to select an open- or closed-loop system. Open-loop cooling systems utilize a liquid coolant such as water that is exposed to air and the environment. They tend to have a lower initial cost but also require more frequent maintenance and water treatment, and they suffer from reduced efficiency compared to closedloop systems. A cooling system that utilizes an air- and environment-isolated liquid coolant is commonly referred to as a closed-loop system. Closed-loop systems tend to have a higher initial cost but require less maintenance and provide better cooling efficiency compared to openloop systems.

Know where the equipment will be used. Consider where the cooling equipment will be operated. Eddie Stevenson, MovinCool marketing manager, suggests analyzing the server room, calculating the heat load, and taking into account all factors that could potentially change your cooling needs, such as, "the number of watts being outputted, if it's facing a window, and any factors that could escalate the heat in that room."

Look for dependable units. Dependability should be top-of-mind. "You want to look at the quality of the manufacturer and choose a product from a manufacturer that has been around for a long time," Stevenson says. He advises enterprises to consider the following: "Are they housing fan motors correctly? Are they welding the casters? With portable units, they get moved around a lot, so make sure they will stand up moving from location to location over time."

Consider alternative cooling methods. Steve Branton, director of marketing at Asetek (www.asetek.com), recommends investigating alternative types of cooling,

such as those that use liquid technology. "A lot of the talk I see about liquid cooling in data centers is really moving liquid-cooled CRAC units from the periphery (outer walls) of the data center closer and closer to the servers," he says. "In-row, rear-door, and some of the top-of-rack coolers are great examples of getting the CRAC units off the walls and closer to the servers." He also suggests using cooling systems that focus liquid cooling on the hottest components (highest heat flux) in the systems, such as CPUs and GPUs, rather than using the liquid to cool air that in turn cools the server.

BUYERS' CHECKLIST

- ✓ How many BTUs do you need to keep your equipment at the appropriate temperature?
- ✓ Do you need a closed- or open-loop system?
- ✓ Where will the cooling equipment be located?
- ✓ How much of a concern is noise output?
- ✓ Commercial-grade equipment offers superior reliability and durability.

KEY TERMS

BTU (British Thermal Units).

Used to measure the amount of energy required to heat a liquid such as water. A single BTU represents enough energy to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit at a constant pressure of one atmosphere. In the context of cooling equipment, BTUs are listed as a given rating per hour.

Closed loop.

A cooling system that utilizes a liquid coolant that is isolated from air and the environment.

Open loop.

A cooling system that utilizes a liquid coolant that is exposed to air and the environment.

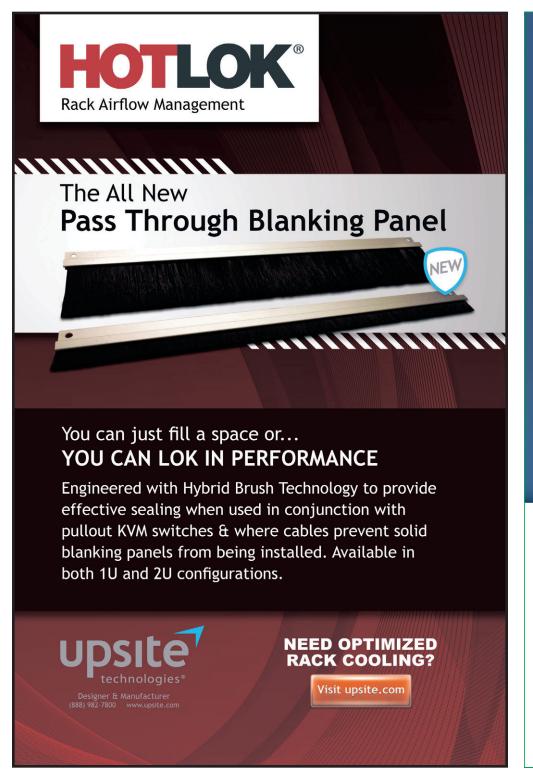


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Product

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Contact: (201) 594-1292 www.access-computer-floors.com

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AccessFloorSystems.com offers everything you'll need for a data center floor, including raised floor panels and components, equipment supports, cable trays, trim materials, grommets, ESD carpet and floor, panel lifters, and antistatic mats. AccessFloorSystems.com has been around for more than 25 years, and it offers same-day shipping on most raised floors, components, and accessories.

- Raised floor systems are available for new and used Tate Bar Concore, Woodcore Panels, Tate All Steel Panels, Tate Concrete Panels, and Tate Aluminum Panels
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Best For: Enterprises that are building or remodeling the data center floor and want a company that offers a large selection of products and solutions for legacy data centers.

Contact: (800) 868-8606 | www.accessfloorsystems.com

ASM Modular Systems Raised Access Flooring System





Raised access flooring systems from ASM allow for easy reconfiguration via instant access to wiring and cabling. ASM's raised access floors include technology to address advances in electronic workflow and energy efficiency.

- Incorporates a solid brass positive grounding device in every panel
- Uses nickel chrome plating on critical parts for safety
- Uses a solid tube design that's better than conventional U-shape for high-strength stringers
- Green building elements
- High-pressure laminates available
- · Vinyl plastic that's resistant to strong chemicals

Best For: IT administrators who require electrical grounding and want no zinc whiskers and high-strength stringers.

Contact: (866) 516-8531 | www.asmproducts.com

Product

Tate Access Floors In-Floor Cooling Systems



Description

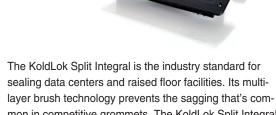
Tate Access Floors designed three new in-floor cooling products for data centers: the DirectAire airflow panel, the SmartAire variable-air-volume damper, and the PowerAire fan-assist module. The DirectAire panel is designed to deliver airflow to server racks at an angle, which allows 93% of the airflow to enter the face of the rack. The DirectAire panel also eliminates bypass air to save on operating expense in new facilities. The SmartAire dampers give admins electronic control over the amount of air passing through an individual panel, which can help save on fan energy when servers are idle. PowerAire is designed to help in dense server racks and blades where a blast of cooling may be needed. PowerAire can be throttled up or down based on power requirements.

- DirectAire panels cool up to 28.5kW per rack and can support a design load of 2,000 pounds
- SmartAire dampers allow each panel and rack tandem to be thought of as an individual zone
- PowerAire modules are easy to install in retrofit applications or in new cooling systems
- Three options provide compelling return on investment

Best For: Data center environments that face the challenges of cooling a high-density, variable-load data center.

Contact: (800) 231-7788 | www.tateinc.com

Upsite Technologies KoldLok® Split Integral Raised Floor Grommet



sealing data centers and raised floor facilities. Its multilayer brush technology prevents the sagging that's common in competitive grommets. The KoldLok Split Integral greatly reduces costly bypass airflow, increasing usable cooling unit capacity and ensuring maximized efficiency from HVAC equipment.

- Seals cable penetrations with a 96% or greater effectiveness at the demanding static pressures required for high-density cooling as required by data centers
- Split design allows for easy installation around existing cables or re-cabling without removal
- Dresses raw metal edges in compliance with NFPA 75 to protect cables from cutting
- Compliant with Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS)
- Proudly made in the United States

Best For: Effectively sealing cable openings at static pressures required for high-density cooling in raised floor environments.

Contact: (888) 982-7800 | www.upsite.com

Upsite Technologies KoldLok Wave® Raised Floor Grommet



The KoldLok Wave is the newest innovation in sealing data centers and raised floor facilities. Its revolutionary patent-pending thermoplastic elastomer sealing technology provides a solid seal and conforms around cable penetrations more effectively than brush grommets. The KoldLok Wave offers the fastest ROI and the longest lifetime value.

- Thermoplastic elastomer material is flame rated UL94-HB
- Split design allows for easy installation around existing cables or re-cabling without removal
- Optional protective cover available for added safety when no cable is present
- Durable ABS frame and cover along with flexible sealing surface engineered to withstand long-term use
- Dresses raw metal edges in compliance with NFPA 75 to protect cables from cutting
- Compliant with Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (RoHS)
- Proudly made in the United States

Best For: Sealing against wasted bypass airflow in data centers, dramatically improving efficiency and lowering the data center's overall carbon footprint.

Contact: (888) 982-7800 | www.upsite.com

Processor's Product Spotlight highlights options available in key data center product categories, providing product information side-by-side for easy comparison.

Bergvik Flooring Modular Raised Floor



In the flooring business since 1970, Bergvik offers the strongest, most stable and modular raised floor available for data centers. Bergvik's engineering department supplies CAD drawings that are suited to your needs.

- The Iso Floor system offers custom panels as an option to fit your equipment depths and allows for optimization to build smaller and smarter rooms; floor heights from 12 to 94 inches
- River Cooling Airflow Panels with high-plume fins provide superior air stratification to cool upper servers when compared to flat bottom panels; the unique 36-x 24-foot panel also allows for more server racks
- Earthquake bracing frames will fit any raised floor and are tested to NEBS standards

Best For: Enterprises that are looking to lower energy costs by up to 40% and add more server racks in the same footprint, increasing their revenue stream.

Contact: (410) 548-1449 | www.bergvik.com

PDU Cables Air-Guard Cable Seal



Seal raised floor cable openings with the Air-Guard Cable Seal product line and realize an immediate cost savings in the data center. These products significantly minimize air loss and improve static pressure to cool data center equipment, which helps prevent expensive electrical equipment from overheating. Air-Guard is the only brushed floor grommet line to offer a dual-stage sealing system with the most effective seal in the data center, and the only one to provide a safety cover for increased safety and durability when cables are not going through the raised floor cut-out. For the highest-quality products in the data center marketplace and the most ease in sourcing your sealing solution, rely on PDU Cables.

- Dual-sealing systems provides an effective, economical means to eliminate bypass air through cable cut-outs
- Choose from products with overlapping brushes and/ or gasket material to seal your specific cut-out need
- Flexible and simple cable routing via removal of floor tiles without disconnecting equipment

Best For: The most effective cable opening seal in a raised floor data center environment.

Contact: (866) 631-4238 | www.pducables.com

Sealco Tacky Mats



Sealco provides a variety of tacky mats to keep your computer or clean room free of contaminants. Each mat is composed of multiple-layer polyethylene film with a specially treated pressure-sensitive adhesive on one side, which catches the contaminants from shoes or equipment. When sheets gather contaminants, the top sheet can be peeled off to expose a new sheet. The sheets are designed to resist adhesive transfer, preventing sheet-to-sheet de-lamination. Ask about our free removable mat holders that allow easy placement and removal.

- · Variety of sizes and colors
- Keeps contaminants away from computer equipment
- Optional company logo imprint
- Mat sheets individually removable and numbered
- Non-beveled edges ensure each sheet is free of contaminants

Best For: Entry ways into computer rooms or any area where dust/dirt can track into the computer room.

Contact: (972) 234-5567 | www.sealco.net

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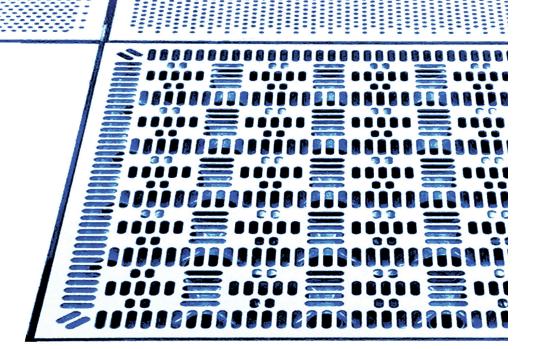
NEW PRODUCT

that data center/IT managers would be interested in learning about?

Send your press release or related product information to press@processor.com.

BUYING TIPS:

Data Center Flooring & Accessories



ONE WAY TO DRAMATICALLY cut data center cooling costs is to invest in raised flooring, because it can play an active role in the way you deliver cooling and manage the heat around your servers. Here, we'll identify a few key elements you'll need to think about before you purchase data center flooring and accessories.

Space. "If your data center was built 15 to 20 years ago, it may have been built on a floor that's shallower than what's required today," says Scott Jacobitti, national sales manager for Snake Tray (www.snaketray.com). Most new raised floor construction requires a minimum of 24 to 36 inches, which is primarily to provide airflow under the floor

and cool the electronics in the data center. If you don't have the space available, you may need to redesign the data center flooring to properly handle the heat from your servers.

"In either situation, it's important to plan your under-floor power cabling layout precisely, establishing designated cable pathways," says Ken Koty, sales engineer at PDU Cables (www.pducables.com). "Making sure you purchase your power cables to the proper length will help to limit congestion and minimize air dams that can lead to cooling inefficiencies."

Power requirements. In most cases, power circuits will not change over the lifetime of the data center. If you're moving or plan on moving in the near future to a denser server layout, you'll want to build in the power to handle it. "Maintaining that energy means that you'll need to bring a tremendous amount of cabling under the floor," Jacobitti adds. You'll need a tray that allows for air movement to go through the tray, rather than blocking the air and creating a hot spot.

Cables to cabinets. There are going to have to be some cutouts in the floor for your cables, and you'll want to seal around the cable cutouts to keep your data center cooling efficient. By installing a grommet with a filler material, you can still have the flexibility to easily access cables without reducing the data center's cooling efficiency.

"In data center floors where cable cut-outs have been made but equipment hasn't been installed and cables haven't been run, having grommets with safety covers in place provides a solid surface for increased durability, safety, and a finished look to the floor," Koty says.

Surface. "You definitely want a nonreactive surface, because you're dealing with a lot of expensive electronic equipment that's susceptible to ground faults and shorts," Jacobitti says. Flooring options are available that are static-resistant; keep in mind that the floor will need to prevent static against a variety of footwear and humidity conditions. Flooring with a traceable ground path is best because it can migrate the electrostatic discharge away from the electrical equipment.

Weight. Make sure that all areas of the data center raised floor are capable of handling server weight and traffic. "The data center is a dynamic space, and your organization will be moving things in and around the floor, so the entire structure needs to be sound," Jacobitti says.

BUYERS' CHECKLIST

- ✓ Will you need a new build-out to meet the space necessary for airflow and cable management?
- ✓ Do you currently have enough power to provide energy for all the servers, and will there be room for expansion in the future?
- ✓ Do you have cable grommets that will prevent the data center's cool air from leaking through raised floor areas where the cables run to the cabinet?
- ✓ Does your data center need an antistatic floor?
- Are all sections of the data center flooring capable of handling the weight and traffic to which they will be subjected?

KEY TERMS

Base.

The piece that's attached to the deck by a mastic or mechanical fastener; its height will determine how high the finished floor will be.

Head.

Inserts into the base and includes holes to fasten panels or stringers, and there's usually a leveling to let you make fine adjustments to the floor height.

Panel

The material that makes up the walking surface of a raised floor. Depending on your weight and traffic needs, the panel may be made from steel, concrete with steel reinforcing bars, or aluminum. The interior may be filled with a lightweight material to give you the ability to easily move panels.

Stringer.

A metal channel or square tube that's attached to the pedestal head that forms a grid and provides lateral stability. May either be snapped into place or fastened from the top with a screw.



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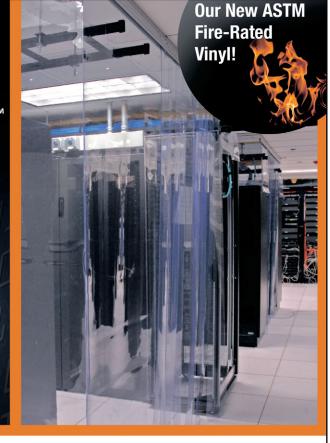
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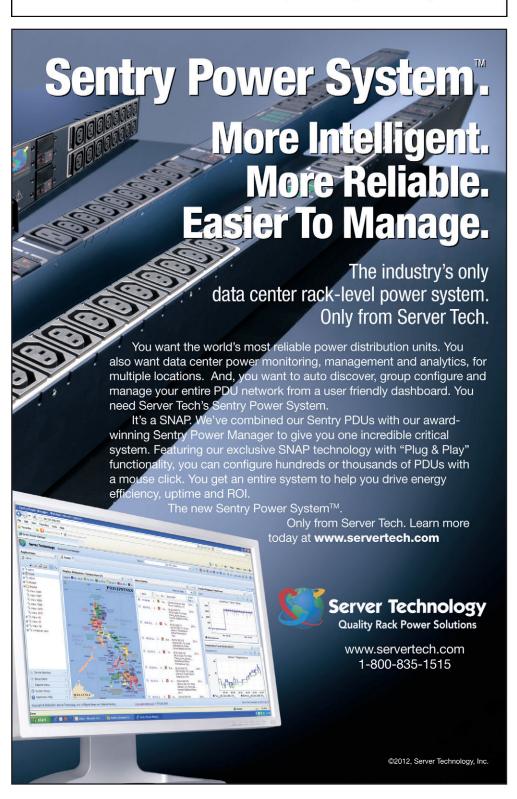
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Blade & Rackmount Servers

Product

Aberdeen AberSAN ZXP



Descriptio

Aberdeen's AberSAN ZXP gives enterprises the simplicity of a NAS server within a SAN environment by combining block-level iSCSI and Fibre Channel connections with multi-user network sharing. The AberSAN ZXP is efficient, easy to use, and flexible, featuring unlimited snapshots and unlimited file system sizes; it's also expandable up to 4U and scalable, meaning enterprises can add memory or CPU performance as needed.

- End-to-end data integrity
- · Thin provisioning
- · Block- and file-based replication
- · In-line deduplication
- Shared storage pools from any combination of storage hardware

Best For: Enterprises looking for a flexible solution that will allow them to add computing power or capacity as their needs grow.

Price: Starts at \$30,806

Contact: (800) 500-9526 | www.aberdeeninc.com

Aberdeen Petarack



Based on Nexenta's Nexentastor ZFS file system, the Petarack from Aberdeen is a storage powerhouse that can hold 1 petabyte on its own or can be scaled to hold up to 5 petabytes of data with additional racks, all at a price point that's attainable for smaller enterprises. It features an intuitive Web-based interface and is cloudand virtualization-ready, offering such features as 128-bit addressing, thin provisioning, and unlimited snapshots. Each head unit features dual Xeon processors and 48GB of memory, which is expandable to 192GB.

- Built-in enterprise-level 10GbE iSCSI target, with option for Fibre Channel
- ZFS file system for fast, secure, scalable storage
- Block- and file-based replication
- Integrated search function
- Includes LCD-KVM
- Hot-swap hard drive bays with in-rack access
- Onsite installation
- Five-year warranty

Best For: Small and midsized companies that need scalable, manageable storage at a price that won't break the bank.

Price: \$495,000

Contact: (800) 500-9526 | www.aberdeeninc.com

Aspen Systems Summit C220I.1F 2U Twin2 Server



The Summit C220I.1F packs unprecedented computing performance and data capacity inside a space-saving, energy efficient 2U chassis. The Summit C220I.1F includes four hot-pluggable systems (nodes). Each of these nodes supports dual processors using the latest Intel Xeon E5-2600 Series, Romley CPUs. Each node holds up to 256GB of ECC Registered Memory and three, Hot-Swap, 3.5" SAS/SATA hard drives.

- 2U 4-Node Rackmount Server
- Dual Socket Intel Xeon E5-2600 Series Processors (per node)
- Eight DDR3 DIMM Sockets (Up 256GB DDR3 ECC Reg) (per node)
- Three 3.5-inch Hot-swap SAS/SATA hard drive bays (per node)
- Dual-Port Gigabit Ethernet (per node)
- 53Gbps FDR Infiniband
- IPMI KVM over LAN support
- 1620W High-Efficiency Redundant Power Supply

Best For: High-density data centers and high-performance computing applications and clusters.

Price: Starts at \$8,200

Contact: (888) 227-1286 | www.aspensystemsdirect.com

Product

Portwell CAR-1000

Descriptio

Unlike commercial motherboard-based systems, the CAR-1000 1U rackmount



communication appliance from Portwell features a reset button that will change the system back to the manufacturer's default setting, if required. CAR-1000 is also perfect for customers who need six Gigabit Ethernet ports and applications that require the high performance and low power consumption of Intel's dual-core Atom D510 processor. CAR-1000 is offered with a choice of three Intel Atom processors—single-core N450 or D410 and dual-core D510—for flexible customized configuration.

- Intel Atom D510, D410, or N450 processor and ICH8M I/O controller
- Supports fanless solutions when built with Intel Atom processor N450
- Up to 4GB DIMM with D510/D410; up to 2GB DIMM with N450
- Six Gigabit Ethernet ports with two bypass segments
- Mini PCI slot for Wi-Fi and Crypto card option

Best For: Network security solutions to SOHO and remote/satellite offices.

Contact: (877) 278-8899 | www.portwell.com

Portwell CAR-4010

Portwell's CAR-4010, a functional and modular 1U rack-



mount communication appliance, is based on the Intel C206 chipset, which offers a wide range of CPU support, including Intel Xeon E3-1200 processors and Intel Core i3-2120 processors. CAR-4010 is a modular platform designed to help customers maximize flexibility and cost savings. Customers have options to install two PCI-E add-on cards or additional Portwell Ethernet modules. CAR-4010 also supports IPMI 2.0 remote network monitoring and management.

- LGA1155 Intel Xeon E3-1200 Series processors and Intel C206 chipset
- Dual-channel DDR3 1333/1066 memory platform, up to 16GB
- Eight onboard RJ-45 Gigabit Ethernet ports with PCI-E Gen. 2.0 technology
- Two software-controlled Gen. 2 bypass segments

Best For: Server virtualization and network security solutions for midsized and large enterprises.

Contact: (877) 278-8899 | www.portwell.com

SRC Computers, LLC Scalable Systems & Servers

Scalable multi-rack systems and servers from SRC Computers feature the new reconfigurable Series J MAP[®] processors and can reduce the footprint and power consumption by orders of magnitude compared to microprocessor-based systems, while meeting the needs



of the most demanding applications. Using the Carte™ Programming Environment, these systems are also very programmer-friendly and fully software-compatible with SRC Computers' embedded and desktop products.

- Housed in 19-inch 35U racks
- Includes system console, power management system, and network switch
- 28U available for customer-selected nodes
- Cluster configuration offers scalability and flexibility
- Hi-Bar[®] Switch Network with Multi-Ported Common Memory configuration allows for additional capability of managed data movement

Best For: Compute-intensive or data movement applications in such areas as textual search, signal processing, image processing, medical imaging, and financial analytics.

Contact: (719) 262-0213 | sales@srccomputers.com www.srccomputers.com

Processor's Product Spotlight highlights options available in key data center product categories, providing product information side-by-side for easy comparison.

eRacks NAS50



The NAS50 Network Attached Storage file server from eRacks is a fully customizable server with the capacity to store 200 terabytes of data. The NAS50 supports SAS or SATA hard drives and works with either Intel or AMD processors, including Intel's Sandy Bridge Xeon series in either single, dual, or quad configurations. AMD options also include dual and quad configurations with AMD's Opteron series. The server specializes in Windows and open-source operating systems.

- Ultra-fast 6Gbps transfers with SATA III
- Chassis dimensions: 15.6 x 16.9 x 27.2 inches (HxWxD)
- Includes a one-year full warranty and three-year limited warranty
- Choice of Intel or AMD processor and configuration
- Can be fitted with 512GB of DDR3 memory, 10GbE Network cards, and 6GBps RAID controller cards
- Hot-swap 3.5-inch SAS/SATA drive bays

Best For: Cloud admins who want more storage for their users and data center managers looking for enterprise-level, high-performance open-source rackmount servers that include the latest products and are easily upgradeable.

Contact: (714) 532-5322 | eracks.com

eRacks STUDIO7



The STUDIO7 from eRacks is an audio creation and production computer system accommodating up to 24GB of DDR3 memory. This customizable rackmount chassis accommodates four 5.25-inch drive bays used as either removable hot-swap storage or DVD-ROM drives. The STUDIO7 is an ultra-quiet rackmount, with noise levels below 32Db. The system is preloaded with a set of open-source audio and video software applications with no licenses or upgrade fees required.

- Linux-based and includes Intel Core i7 CPU and Intel X79 chipset
- · Packaged with Maudio and Nvidia audio and video devices
- · Solid-state drives standard
- Integrated USB3, SATA3 controllers
- Standard chassis dimensions: 5.25 x 19 x 20.8 inches (HxWxD); shorter depth chassis available
- Includes a one-year full warranty and three-year limited warranty
- Integrated Gigabit Ethernet
- Two PCI slots and PCI-E for added network connectivity, graphics, audio, etc., and front USB connector

Best For: Those looking for a professional, studio-level audio and video server with open-source software applications.

Contact: (714) 532-5322 | eracks.com

Hardcore Computer Liquid Blade Server



The Liquid Blade Server from Hardcore Computer is the only rack-mounted high-performance server with patented total submersion technology, a revolutionary cooling system that is 1,350 times more efficient by volume than air cooling. Submersion technology keeps servers running cooler and more reliably with the highest level of sustained performance. Liquid Blade eliminates the requirement for inefficient and expensive air-conditioning systems, reducing cooling costs by as much as 80%.

- Exceptionally fast, smart, and reliable dual Intel Xeon 5500 and 5600 CPUs
- Available Intel Xeon 5698 CPUs with guaranteed overclocking beyond 4.7GHz
- Ultimate simulation/visualization server featuring Nvidia
 Tesla and Quadro GPU cards
- 40Gbps InfiniBand, 10Gbps Ethernet, and other connectivity options available
- Up to six SSDs supported by motherboard SATA II

Best For: High-performance data center and grid computing applications where reliability and availability are mission-critical.

Price: Starts at \$5,684

Contact: (866) 530-0101 | www.hardcorecomputer.com

Supermicro SuperBlade TwinBlade

The innovative TwinBlade doubles the number of dual-processor compute nodes per 7U enclosure to 20, allowing for up to 120 DP



servers per 42U rack for a dense, cost-effective solution. Based on the SBI-7226T-T2 blade supporting the latest Intel Xeon 5600 Series processors, this system delivers unprecedented performance per dollar and per square foot. Available with dual 40Gbps QDR InfiniBand switches, this blade solution features industry-leading 94% power supply efficiency.

- 20 DP (Intel Westmere and AMD G34) nodes in a 7U enclosure
- 128GB ECC-registered DDR3 per DP node
- Dual 40Gb InfiniBand, 10GbE, and 8Gb FCoE switches
- Dual 1/10Gb Layer 2/3 Ethernet switches

Best For: High-performance computing in data center, enterprise, and cloud computing deployments.

Contact: (408) 503-8000 | www.supermicro.com

Supermicro SuperServer 6016GT-TF-FM205

The 1U SuperServer 6016GT-TF-FM205 rackmount server from Supermicro features an Intel Xeon 5600/5500 processor and 192GB of DDR3 1333/1066/800MHz



ECC registered DIMM. The SuperServer 6016GT-TF-FM205 also features the Super X8DTG-DF motherboard (with dual 1,366-pin LGA sockets).

- Supports RAID 0, 1, 5, and 10
- Comes integrated with two Nvidia Fermi M2050 GPU cards
- IPMI 2.0 with support for virtual media over LAN and KVM over LAN
- Intel 82576 dual-port Gigabit Ethernet controller with support for 10BASE-T, 100BASE-TX, 1000BASE-T, and RJ-45 output
- 80 PLUS Gold Certified power supply

Best For: Environments that would benefit from high compute density and uniform large-scale deployment-based rackmount solutions.

Contact: (408) 503-8000 | www.supermicro.com

xByte Technologies Dell PowerEdge R510



The Dell™ PowerEdge™ R510 is a two-socket rack server featuring massive storage potential; advanced remote management; multiple RAID options; and an ideal balance of drive capacity, processing power, redundancy, and value in a 2U chassis.

- Up to 12 hard drives and 24TB of storage
- Processing power with up to 12 total cores
- 128GB maximum memory
- Reduced rack space with small 2U chassis

Best For: Server virtualization, database servers, small and midsized business applications, and multiple Web servers.

Contact: (888) 929-8348 | sales@xbyte.com www.xbyte.com

BUYING TIPS:

Blade & Rackmount Servers

BUYING A NEW SERVER takes significant prep work. Beyond pinpointing the data center's exact needs and how the server will meet them, there are budgetary, future-proofing, compatibility, and vendor considerations to address, as well. To ease the task, consider the following.

Determine what's important. Charles King, president and principal analyst at Pund-IT, counts CPUs, memory, and I/O as the most critical server features, though their relative importance depends on the application and workload they'll support. Companies running a business-critical database or online transaction program, for example, should eye a higher-end CPU/ system than what's needed for generalpurpose applications. For virtualizationrelated use, spend more for extra memory and I/O. Max Haskvitz, general manager of eRacks (www.eracks.com), considers stability (quality components, trustworthy CPU and memory combo, etc.), redundancy (RAID and RPS availability), and compatibility with your current environment and software important. Upgradability is also vital, he says: "Why would you spend thousands or even millions on servers that you can't use two years down the line?"

Virtualization and consolidation. John Sloan, lead analyst for virtualization and consolidation at Info-Tech Research Group, says that unlike the distributed processing world in which servers had a one-to-one relationship with applications, consolidation and virtualization are becoming the norm today. This year, Info-Tech found that among organizations it surveys, more than half of their server workloads were running on virtual machines on average, Sloan says.

In this space, Sloan says it's important to know how a new server will fit into a consolidated stack that includes servers, networks, and storage. Unlike distributed models, "in a consolidated infrastructure, the server is a unit of hard capacity (processing and memory) that's combined with networks and storage in a resource pool that's partitioned up into virtual entities." Increasingly, he says, enterprises aren't buying servers but blocks of capacity. What differentiates current offerings "is how the interconnects are managed and how the whole thing is managed as one resource pool," he says. Typically, blade



servers are the form factor for consolidated offerings, he says.

Trends to watch. Haskvitz says most trends for servers currently are cloud-related. Here, multiple-node servers are a great investment, he says. King advises IT to "bone up on the underlying technologies in cloud and determine whether they could benefit from engaging with cloud service providers or SaaS vendors." Haskvitz says larger-density, smaller-footprint systems represent another server-related trend, while King says numerous vendors are leveraging flash and SSDs to provide a substantial boost to overall system performance and advises that companies that consider high-end processing and performance important "should definitely take a look at it."

Budgetary considerations. "A good vendor should leave you with no questions," Haskvitz says, but because enterprises

are different, this sometimes can be difficult to accomplish. Questions should focus on the support you can expect, whether devices have been tested in environments similar to yours, how the vendor's brand compares to your current brand, whether cost-savings are built in, and how long the vendor anticipates the units will be available. Budget-wise, some new vendors try to make the majority of their money on support or software, he says. A competent IT department that can find an open-source solution for its appliance or application needs, he says, can probably cut up to 50 to 60% of the cost. Additionally, Sloan says, "In any infrastructure purchase, the upfront capital acquisition cost is just part of the deal. Three- to five-year total costs should be calculated, including maintenance and facilities costs."

BUYERS' CHECKLIST

- ✓ Match the application and workload the server will support to the CPU, memory, I/O, storage, and other components they'll require.
- ✓ Recognize that virtualization, consolidation, and cloud computing are trending areas where servers are concerned.
- Ensure the vendor satisfies all questions concerning support, compatibility, performance, etc.

KEY TERMS

Configuration.

Refers to a server's makeup in terms of components (CPU, memory, storage, etc.), OS, and the like.

TCO.

Server-wise, total cost of ownership includes the server's initial acquisition cost but also associated maintenance, facilities, cabling, and other expenses covering three to five years.

For Sale:

A10 Networks **AX2500 64-bit New Generation** Server Load Balancer



- Intelligent Layer 4-7 application processing capabilities
- Industry-leading performance and scalability
- Unique Advanced Core Operating System (ACOS) offers true scalable performance
- Integrates into any data center to enable advanced Web application delivery solutions
- Comprehensive set of IPv6 and Network Address Translation (NAT) features
- Advanced server load balancing and flexible health monitoring capabilities
- Redundant components and high-availability design

Layer 4 Throughput: 11Gbps Layer 4 CPS: 300K

Ethernet Interface: Gigabit Copper 8 Gigabit Fiber SFP 4

Power Supply: Dual 400 W

Dimensions: 1.75 x 17 x 21.8 inches (HxWxD)

Rack Units: 1U **Management Interface:** Yes **Console Port:** Yes **Solid State Drive:** Yes

(4) available; asking \$12,000 each

Contact: Edward Jondle Phone: (402) 458-4401



Prepare For The Unexpected With Room Alert

o one knows when or how disaster will strike. We just know the potential is always there. So preparation is crucial to minimizing its impact on computers, networks, users & business.

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- Windows Storage Server 2008 R2 or Linux OS

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 Adaptec RAID Controllers
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- Dual Gigabit Network Cards
- Windows Storage Server 2008 R2 or Linux OS

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- Data Capacity from 2TB to 12TB
 4 Hot-Swappable SATA/SAS Drive Bays
 Adaptec RAID Controller

- RAID 0, 1, 10, 5, 6 Supported
 Support up to two Quad-Core Xeon Processors
 Dual Gigabit Network Cards
 Windows Storage Server 2008 R2 or Linux OS

3U - 16 Bay



- Data Capacity from 8TB to 48TB
- Adaptec RAID Controller
 RAID 0, 1, 10, 5, 6, 50, 60 Supported
 Support up to two Quad-Core Xeon Processors
 Dual Gigabit Network Cards
 Windows Storage Server 2008 R2 or Linux OS



- Data Capacity from 12TB to 72TB
 24 Hot-Swappable SATA/SAS Drive Bays
 Adaptec RAID Controller
 RAID 0, 1, 10, 5, 6, 50, 60 Supported
 Support up to two Quad-Core Xeon Processors
 Dual Gigabit Network Cards
 Windows Storage Server 2008 R2 or Linux OS

4U - 36 Bay Starting at \$7,850

- Data Capacity from 18TB to 108TB
 36 Hot-Swappable SATA/SAS Drive Bays
 Adaptec RAID Controller
 RAID 0, 1, 10, 5, 6, 50, 60 Supported
 Support up to two Quad-Core Xeon Processors
 Dual Gigabit Network Cards
 Windows Storage Server R2 or Linux OS

Starting at \$1,965



- 2U 12 Bay Starting at \$4,035
- Data Capacity from 6TB to 36TB
 12 Hot-Swappable SATA/SAS Drive Bays
 Adaptec RAID Controller
 RAID 0, 1, 10, 5, 6, 50, 60 Supported
 Support up to two Quad-Core Xeon Processors
 Dual Gigabit Network Cards
 Windows Storage Server 2008 R2 or Linux OS
- Starting at \$4,550
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Colocation Providers

Product

360 Technology Center Solutions



360TCS

Description

360TCS, LLC is a premium provider of enterprise-level colocation and data center services. Strategically located in the Chicago suburbs, the 360TCS data center features an ultra-efficient, environmentally friendly Tier III design providing our clients with 100% uptime. As an SSAE-16 Type II audited facility, the 360TCS data center provides a physically secure, fully redundant environment, ideal for supporting mission-critical data and hardware deployments.

- Power densities in excess of 32kW per cabinet
- 24/7 onsite security and surveillance
- Reliable connectivity with access to multiple carriers
- 2N redundant, energy-efficient chilled water cooling system
- Cost-effective, customizable solutions
- Multiple levels of support and remote hands services available

Best For: Enterprises looking to add a level of redundancy to their IT infrastructure. Ideal for high density deployments of blade server technology, power-hungry storage arrays, and high performance computing clusters.

Contact: (888) 313-1306 | www.360tcs.com

CoreSite



CoreSite, operating since 2001, offers customized data center services for any need. The company offers flexible services in order to exceed standard colocation operations, providing a range of sizing, cooling, power, and space options. CoreSite data centers are designed with reliability, scalability, and flexibility in mind. All colocation solutions in CoreSite's 2 million square feet of data center space are adaptable according to the customer's requirements.

- Cabinet by cabinet, private cages, and private data center suites available
- Cage power densities up to 300W per square foot
- Cooling facilitates up to 15kW per cabinet
- Flexible cage space: 100 to 5,000+ square feet

Best For: Enterprises that need flexible, custom-fit solutions for colocation services.

Contact: (866) 777-2673 | www.coresite.com

CoreXchange



From smaller-scale, affordable Half Cabinet

options to Private Cages for customers needing more space, CoreXchange has the right size of solution to meet any enterprise's needs. All of CoreXchange's colocation solutions are available for purchase online and provide customizable power, bandwidth, and network features to ensure that you get the performance you need for a price you can afford.

- Power, bandwidth, and IP addresses
- · Burstable or unmetered bandwidth options
- Bandwidth from 1Mbps to 1000Mbps (up to 10 Gig available)
- Selections for redundant power drops, network handoffs, and cross-connects
- SSAE 16 SOC 1 Type II-compliant data centers
- 24/7/365 onsite NOC support with free remote hands and eyes services, including reboots

Best For: Any company looking for a reliable, secure colocation solution with always-available support.

Contact: (877) 271-7737 | www.corexchange.com

Product

NetSource Communications



Description

NetSource Communications, a hosting solutions provider located just outside of Chicago, offers colocation services with the rack space, power, bandwidth, and security for any enterprise. NetSource offers advanced managed services with a colocation agreement, including firewalls and data backups. Experienced technicians are on hand for support and to help customize a server architecture for any particular need.

- N+1 redundancy built into the data center infrastructure
- Variety of colocation and managed service packages available
- Strict security with 24/7/365 video surveillance
- Unique options for different sizing or pricing needs
- Low latency bandwidth, with almost unlimited bandwidth available
- Flexibility in power needs

Best For: Enterprises in need of a colocation solution with a variety of sizing and pricing options.

Contact: (866) 778-1212 | www.ntsource.com

OCOSA Communications



OCOSA Communications is a family owned and operated facilities-based provider headquartered in Tulsa, Okla. From hosting to connectivity and data center to IT consulting, OCOSA can tailor a solution to fit your needs. OCOSA understands the small business and specifically the cycle of business. For almost a decade, OCOSA has been tailoring solutions for businesses in almost every market vertical. Upgrade to OCOSA and let them work for you.

- Shared and dedicated hosting
- Shared and private cloud hosting
- Colocation (single servers, half to full cabinets, and custom rooms)
- Metro Ethernet, dedicated Internet access, and MPLS connectivity
- IT consulting and support
- Online backup and disaster recovery

Best For: SMBs wanting a hosting solution specifically tailored to their organization's needs.

Contact: (866) 93-OCOSA | www.ocosa.com

OnRamp HIPAA-Compliant Colocation



OnRamp's data center

team of HIPAA implementation experts works with its data center customers to build a comprehensive, HIPAA-compliant hosting solution that addresses the confidentiality, availability, and integrity of electronic personal health information. OnRamp has developed a 3-step process, rooted in the company's highly secure managed hosting, cloud computing, and colocation services, to diagnose, assess, and manage any threats, vulnerabilities, and risks to your IT infrastructure.

- OnRamp HIPAA-Compliant Colocation services meet the rigorous HIPAA compliance standards
- OnRamp 3-step HIPAA Risk Management Process assists each customer in making appropriate decisions as to how to use OnRamp's services to effectively and efficiently protect the customer's sensitive patient data
- OnRamp features the highest levels of security, reliability, redundancy, technical expertise, and monitoring 24/7/365 for HIPAA-Compliant Colocation

Best For: Any company that works with healthcare data and patient records.

Contact: (888) 667-2660 | www.onr.com

Processor's Product Spotlight highlights options available in key data center product categories, providing product information side-by-side for easy comparison.

FORTRUST



FORTRUST is a premium data center services company delivering high-availability enterprise infrastructure services to the business community. FORTRUST's premier offerings include adaptable colocation space for any size enterprise supported by highly reliable power and cooling infrastructure, connectivity, and physical security, as well as a comprehensive suite of managed services to safeguard mission-critical business services.

- 224,000-square-foot facility located in Denver
- Highly reliable critical systems infrastructure featuring 2N+1 UPS distribution
- Layered 24/7 onsite security, Network Operations Center, and customer support staff
- Carrier-neutral connectivity options from a variety of popular carriers
- SSAE 16 SOC 1 Type 2 and SOC Type 2 compliant facility

Best For: Companies seeking colocation services with a focus on uptime, risk mitigation, and value-added services.

Contact: (866) 976-9379 | www.fortrustdatacenter.com

Green House Data



an economically responsible data center

Green House Data is an enterprise class colocation facility delivering state of the art services to businesses of all sizes. Our customers rest assured that their critical applications are always available in our N+1 redundant, highly secure facility. Our experienced employees are always happy to assist with any infrastructure needs. Powered entirely by renewable wind power, our energy efficiency is 40% better than typical data centers. We pass this power savings to our clients to offer highly competitive rates on all of our services.

- Cloud hosting, managed hosting, and disaster recovery also available
- 100% service level agreements
- 24/7/365 network monitoring, support, and access
- 10Gbps to 40Gbps point to point and Internet access available
- SSAE 16, Type II Compliant

Best For: Video and digital imagery companies that are looking for a reliable, highly available colocation facility that provides a sustainable business model at affordable prices.

Contact: (866) 995-3282 | www.greenhousedata.com

Hostway



Hostway is a colocation provider with data centers located in the United States and Canada. Hostway's new hybrid solution blends colocation services with cloud services for a customized configuration for any enterprise's hosting needs. Organizations are able to leverage prior investments in infrastructure and utilize colocation for legacy applications that cannot be migrated to new servers. Hostway provides colocation with the ability to connect to either public or private clouds for disaster recovery, burst capacity, and other Web needs.

- Flexible pricing options with ability to shift contracted spend if needs change
- State-of-the-art security with 24/7 live monitoring and tech support
- Various sizes of cabinets available to fit any need
- Managed firewall, intrusion detection, load balancing, database administration, and more available

Best For: Enterprises wanting an experienced colocation provider with a proven track record to keep your data secure and available.

Contact: (866) 467-8929 | www.hostway.com

RockyNet Data Center & Cloud Solutions



RockyNet personalizes its offerings to meet your business needs. In business since 1996, the company's experts have the knowledge and experience necessary to guide you to your goals. RockyNet has 24/7/365 onsite technical support to ensure that your mission-critical data is kept safe and secure. Its SAS-70/HIPAA-compliant data center offers colocation, managed servers, Web hosting, and virtual cloud machines in order to provide all of your data services. RockyNet provides redundant sites, UPS/generator power, N+1 cooling, multiple Gigabit Ethernet ports, and static-free raised flooring. Whatever your needs, RockyNet's tech team will work with your enterprise's tech team to find the best solution for you.

- Colocation, managed servers, and virtual cloud machines
- Third rack, half rack, full rack, and private cages
- 24/7/365 onsite support
- HIPAA and SAS-70 compliant

Best For: Businesses that would like assistance in their physical or cloud approach to colocation.

Contact: (303) 444-7052 | www.rockynet.com

Starpoint Digital



Located 30 miles outside of Chicago, the Starpoint Digital data center offers colocation services geared toward medium to large-sized businesses. Service is fast, secure, and reliable, with both managed and unmanaged colocation offerings. Additional features include both high-level and low-level tech support, IP addresses, DNS hosting, device monitoring, and more.

- Shared and private colocation
- VoIP cloud PBX
- Cloud server and desktops
- T1 and fiber dedicated accessManaged backup, firewall, and SQL

Best For: Enterprises looking for inexpensive shared rack space with a variety of added features.

Contact: (877) 968-7638 | www.mystarpoint.com

Vaultas



Based in Minnesota, Vaultas specializes in state-of-theart, highly secure colocation facilities where its customers can store mission-critical data, whether for real-time daily access or secure offsite backup or storage. The company offers fast, reliable Internet access and turnkey IT services that guarantee access to your data in the event of an emergency. Vaultas' data center and business continuity services are vendor-neutral and meet compliance requirements for such regulations as Sarbanes-Oxley.

- Reduced total cost of ownership through energy conservation and vendor collaboration
- Disaster recovery, business continuity, colocation, data storage, and network and VoIP services
- Emphasis on security, reliability, and regulatory compliance

Best For: Companies looking for a reliable disaster recovery option for their mission-critical data and services.

Contact: (800) 998-2858 | www.vaultas.com



Colocation Providers

COLOCATION FACILITIES are great for companies that need to grow their existing infrastructure, move their systems to an offsite facility, or have a solid option in place for disaster recovery. One of the biggest benefits of colocation, however, is the potential savings.

"Traditionally, companies that choose to build their own data centers have to spend additional capital upfront to ensure that the data center will be capable of handling their short-term and long-term needs," says Keith Greene, vice president of data center operations at Peak 10 (www.peak10.com). "Colocation, cloud, and managed services providers help companies to manage their capital and operational dollars to be the most efficient for their business."

Before you can take advantage of colocation, there are a few things you need to know. With the help of experts, we'll show you what to look for in a colocation provider so you lower your infrastructure costs and meet your company needs.

Understand the components of the colocation facility. Before you start looking at potential colocation providers, you should first research everything that goes into a colocation facility and how it will affect your company's needs and overall costs. Colocation facilities comprise much of the same IT equipment as onsite data centers, including electrical distribution, chillers, computer room air conditioning, uninterruptible power supplies, and more, says Greg Elliott, director of business development at 1102 Grand (www.1102grand.com).

Elliott says that some companies can opt for public colocation data centers to take advantage of the aforementioned equipment, but still be able to maintain control of their data center equipment itself, which includes servers, routers, and more. In the end, it comes down to how much of its systems a company wants to put into colocation and how much should remain onsite.

Decide how much space and power your company needs. After the research phase, you should use the knowledge gathered to analyze how large of a space and how much power you'll need to keep your equipment up and running. This will not only affect the overall performance of the colocation facility, but also affect the overall costs associated with it.

"There are a number of important considerations when choosing colocation space, including physical security, access, redundant infrastructure, power capacity per square foot, service provider flexibility in equipment hosting, and cost, to name

a few," Greene says. "It is well worth the effort to calculate the maximum power draw under peak load for all of the equipment in consideration for colocation hosting beforehand, as well as understanding the need for redundant circuits."

Know the costs associated with colocation. With a good idea of how much space and power you need, you can also start considering the costs associated with your needs. According to Elliott, many colocation providers, including 1102 Grand, "use a space component and power component to determine monthly pricing for most spaces." Elliott adds that there will also generally be a one-time setup fee for space and connectivity. He recommends that companies make sure that all of these items are detailed in the quote and the contract or agreement so that companies know exactly what they're paying for.

Look at a provider's customer service and security offerings. Make sure you find out whether a colocation provider offers 24/7/365 customer service, so you know support will always be available when your company needs it. Look into a provider's security systems, as well, because saving money on infrastructure is only viable if your crucial systems are properly protected. Look for providers that offer a layered security approach and give you access to your systems so you can monitor them at will.

Make sure there is room for expansion. One of the most important things to consider when choosing a colocation provider is whether the space you invest in has enough room for you to expand. Most companies expect business to grow over time, and it's important that colocation facilities have the flexibility to grow along with you.

"Companies can look to colocation, cloud, and managed service providers to buy and grow infrastructure to meet their business demands," Greene says. "Financial viability and a growth strategy are important to make sure your provider can handle future requirements."

BUYERS' CHECKLIST

- ✓ Who owns the colocation facility?
- ✓ What are your short- and long-term plans for the facility?
- ✓ What options are in place for potential company growth and expansion?
- ✓ How much power and space do you need?
- ✓ Does the facility offer 24/7/365 customer service?

KEY TERMS

SAS 70.

Stands for Statement on Auditing Standards No. 70 and is one in a long line of SAS auditing standards. SAS 70 relates to service providers, such as colocation providers, and is used to audit service controls and operating performance.

Cabinets, cages, and suites.

Terms used to describe how much space a company needs for its colocation resources. Cabinets are for companies that only need a small amount of space, and suites, vaults, or rooms are required for larger-scale colocation needs.





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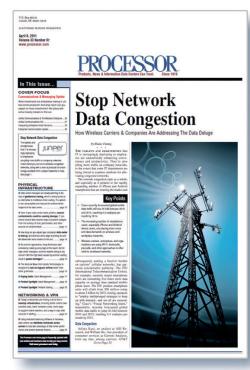
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Equipment Recycling & Disposal

Company

5R Processors



Description

5R Processors specializes in recycling and repurposing your enterprise's unwanted electronics. Services include computer and electronics recycling (including metal recycling), refurbishing, and waste processing of scrap material, all helping to reduce the negative impact of e-waste.

- Closed-loop recycling used to create new products from destroyed and shredded equipment
- Environmentally aware recycling with accountability for all hazardous waste, minimizing contamination
- Accepts wide variety of equipment and components for recycling, including computers, mechanical equipment, utility and power equipment, various metals, and more
- Meets R2 and ISO 14001 certifications

Best For: Enterprises looking to recycle or refurbish their end-of-life equipment.

Contact: (715) 532-2050 | www.5rprocessors.com

AnythingIT



With a suite of IT asset management services, including testing, auditing, and DoD data destruction and processing, AnythingIT helps government and commercial clients deal with aging technology and the regulatory compliance issues involved with managing it. AnythingIT's consultants will perform an IT asset review and analysis that uses a fair-market evaluation of your current technology.

- RecycleTomorrow[®] program saves costs in the remarketing and recycling process
- Can process IT assets at multiple ISO 14001-certified facilities globally
- Offers custom-designed channel and non-channel programs for OEMs and integrators servicing both government and commercial clients
- Knowledgeable in disposal processing, data mining, and warehouse systems for IT assets
- Unparalleled past performance servicing publicsector clients

Best For: Government and commercial enterprise organizations that need help making cost-effective business decisions for IT storage, disposal, resale, donations, and recycling.

Contact: (877) 766-3050 | www.anythingit.com

CloudBlue



CloudBlue offers several e-waste management services for enterprises and consumers. Both onsite and offsite data eradication services can be provided using nationally and internationally recognized standards. Services available include refurbishment and repair, fair market value assessment, remarketing strategies, warranty support, repair services, and much more. Additionally, a dedicated program manager will assist with every operation.

- A certified e-Stewards recycler
- ISO 14001:2004 certified
- Onsite services available to help manage, de-install, or redeploy IT assets
- Qualified CloudBlue technicians available on location to ensure your assets and data remain secure
- High-level repair services available
- Safe and secure recycling methods meeting the highest of industry standards

Best For: Enterprises looking for a certified service provider to assist with the recycling, repair, or refurbishing of IT assets.

Contact: (866) 437-4258 | www.cloudblue.com

Company

Secure MDE



Description

Secure MDE offers a guaranteed solution for end-of-life data. The Secure Shark high-capacity destruction service shreds media your company no longer needs—media that's full of sensitive data, takes up space, and causes you anxiety. Secure Shark can handle jobs of any size, anywhere in the country. Best of all, the process safeguards the environment by recycling 100% of all resultant material.

- Cost-effective: Eliminates labor costs of wiping, disassembling, or degaussing
- Secure: Onsite personnel can monitor the destruction process and verify the results
- Convenient: All destruction takes place at your site; Secure MDE can handle quantities of any size
- Environmentally friendly: Exceeds EPA, OSHA, state, and local environmental laws

Best For: Organizations of any size that want to responsibly, securely dispose of end-of-life media.

Contact: (888) 312-2333 | www.securemde.com

U.S. Micro



U.S. Micro offers data sanitization services and demanufacturing capabilities to companies that need to retire IT assets securely and responsibly. The company deploys its own technicians, rather than subcontractors, to destroy data onsite at customer locations, every time, anywhere in the United States. IT assets are tracked every step of the way by an industry-unique proprietary electronic tracking technology called Enertia. Using next-generation technology, U.S. Micro is able to demanufacture any IT asset that cannot be sold.

- Data sanitization occurs at the customer's location
- Enertia safely tracks and certifies when all devices are data-free
- U.S. Micro technicians, not sub-contractors, handle every step of the process
- All assets are refurbished and resold or recycled; demanufacturing occurs at U.S. Micro's next-generation facility and nothing ends up in landfills

Best For: Enterprises in need of secure, environmentally responsible IT asset disposition services.

Contact: (888) 876-4276 | www.usmicrocorp.com

WeBuyUsedTape.net



WeBuyUsedTape.net pays top dollar for your new and used tapes. WeBuyUsedTape has been in the business of purchasing new, used, excess, and surplus magnetic media for more than 35 years. It uses regulation-approved, secure data eradication processes and environmentally friendly disposal programs to give organizations a safe and economic incentive for recycling used media. No-obligation, confidential quotes on your tape media are available at any time. Onsite data destruction available.

- Simple process: Submit your list of media; receive a confidential, no-obligation offer within 24 hours; and ship your media to us.
- Processes meet HIPAA, Gramm-Leach-Bliley, PCI, Sarbanes-Oxley, and other regulation requirements
- Data Destruction Certificates document your transaction and provide proof of complying with recycling and data eradication processes

Best For: Enterprises needing a secure way to dispose of new, used, excess, and surplus magnetic media.

Contact: (800) 821-1782 | www.WeBuyUsedTape.net

Processor's Product Spotlight highlights options available in key data center product categories, providing product information side-by-side for easy comparison.

Services

DMD Systems Recovery



DMD Systems Recovery works to minimize your risk and maximize your payback, so you'll get a solid return on investment without worrying about the possibilities of regulatory fines, bad publicity, or litigation from data theft on hard drives that weren't properly sanitized. DMD Systems Recovery offers data deinstallation, packaging, logistics, data destruction, recycling, and remarketing.

- Removal and packaging services to preserve value
- Increased ROI through direct purchase or profit sharing
- DoD 5220.22-M-compliant data wipe and NAIDcompliant destruction
- Reduced risk through certificates of destruction and compliance and transfer of ownership

Best For: Data centers, call centers, and companies with large centralized operations.

Contact: (877) 777-0651 | www.dmdsystems.com

Intechra



Intechra focuses on data security and protecting clients from liability by leveraging technology, processes, and customized solutions into the right mix of end-of-life asset management and disposal services. Intechra's IT asset disposition offers waste-free, worry-free service, covering all steps of the process, including logistics, data security, and the demanufacturing and recycling of materials.

- Ultimate data security protection
- Environmentally compliant disposal
- Comprehensive remarketing, redeployment, and donation strategies
- · Full indemnity against risk

Best For: Enterprise or global organizations needing a secure, compliant global IT asset disposal strategy.

Contact: (800) 393-7627 | intechra.com

Reclamere



Reclamere's experienced team works with you to develop a data security plan tailored to meet your data destruction, data recovery, and IT asset management needs. Reclamere's experts can also help you execute your legal responsibilities for each phase of the IT equipment life cycle, which helps protect your company, employees, and clients from data breaches.

- · Certified data destruction
- IT asset management for safe and secure preparation of electronic equipment
- IT audit and assessment to evaluate a company's risk level
- E-discovery and litigation support to recover information from hard drives for legal procedures

Best For: Enterprises most concerned about the security of outdated IT assets.

Contact: (814) 684-5505 | www.reclamere.com

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BUYING TIPS:

Equipment Recycling Services



WHEN YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE your equipment is recycled safely and your stored data is completely erased, choosing the right equipment recycling service is essential. And according to Brian Musil, founder and director of sales and purchasing at Recycle Your Media (www .RecycleYourMedia.com), there is no way for companies to properly handle recycling themselves.

Equipment recycling helps the environment and can slow down the amount of materials unnecessarily ending up in landfills, says Norm Hutton, managing director of sales and acquisitions at DTC Computer Supplies (www.WeBuyUsedTape.net). And the biggest problem, according to Hutton, is that some of this e-waste is toxic.

The need to recycle your unused equipment is about much more than simply cutting costs. Musil notes that e-waste is still the fastest growing municipal waste stream in the United States. Recycling old or unused equipment can also help your company save money and make room for new equipment.

Given that, here's what to look for when choosing an equipment recycling service.

Accepted equipment and services provided. The first things you should look at are what services the recycling company provides and whether your equipment is accepted by the company for recycling. If you're looking to recycle used tape media or equipment, for example, make sure the service company you choose can handle the type of media you have. The same goes for other equipment such as computers and servers.

Different companies also provide different services. Most will pay you for equipment that can be reused or let you donate your proceeds to charity. Some equipment can't be reused, but you can still pay to have it recycled and receive data destruction reports or other documents showing that data was erased. The payment you receive or costs you incur will depend on what you are recycling, so be sure to contact the company to get a quote in advance.

The process. Recycling companies have different ways of getting rid of your IT equipment. Musil says that the first step is contacting one of the company's specialists who can help you decide whether you need onsite destruction or if you want to send equipment to the company for recycling. Most equipment recyclers are flexible and let you choose the easiest option for your individual needs. And if your company or one of your facilities is international, Hutton notes that you'll want to be sure the service provider can arrange and pay for shipping from anywhere in the world.

Check for transparency. You'll likely want as much transparency as possible, so you should make sure the recycling service you choose keeps a history of all the equipment it recycles. You can track your equipment from start to finish and know that your data hasn't been compromised. And as an added bonus, if you want to buy equipment from one of these companies, some of them can provide information showing when it was recycled and where it came from.

BUYERS' CHECKLIST

- Cost. What is the total cost to recycle your equipment?
- ✓ Compensation. Will the service pay you to recycle the equipment?
- ✓ Transparency. Does the company let you track your equipment and provide proof of data destruction?
- Competitive. How does a company's price quote and service options compare to other alternatives?
- ✓ Process. Will the company pick up your equipment, or do you have to mail it to the company?
- Extra features. Does this company provide any extra services you can't get anywhere else?

KEY TERMS

Data destruction report/certificate.

A document proving that data has been safely and completely deleted from equipment you have submitted for recycling.

Data eradication.

The complete erasure of data from equipment, such as tapes and disk drives, so that no sensitive information is lost or stolen during the recycling process.

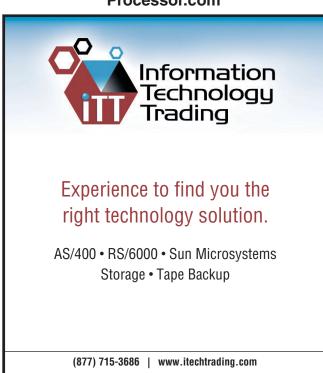
E-waste (electronic waste).

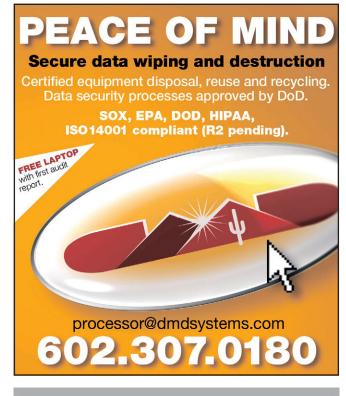
One of the biggest problems facing data centers and IT companies. It covers desktop computers, laptops, blade servers, and other larger infrastructure equipment that is thrown away without recycling.

VOLSER (Volume Serial Number Report).

A procedure some equipment recycling services use to track equipment from your company to the recycling facility.













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Processor's Product Spotlight highlights options available in key data center product categories, providing product information side-by-side for easy comparison.

UPSes

Product

CyberPower Systems PFC Sinewave UPS Systems



Description

The CyberPower CP1500PFCLCD PFC Sinewave UPS System with pure sine wave output and multifunction LCD safeguards computer systems, servers, and networking hardware that use conventional and Active PFC (Power Factor Correction) power supplies. Its AVR (automatic voltage regulation) topology delivers clean, consistent AC power, protecting connected equipment and preventing costly business interruptions. Its patented GreenPower UPSTM advanced circuitry reduces UPS energy costs by up to 75% compared to competitive models. The PFC Sinewave UPS Systems solve the critical compatibility issues of non-sine wave UPS products working with computing systems using Active PFC power supplies (ENERGY STAR 5.0).

- 1,500VA/900W pure sine wave UPS
- · Line-interactive topology
- AVR & GreenPower UPS

Best For: Midrange to high-end computer systems, servers, and networking hardware that use conventional and Active PFC (Power Factor Correction) power supplies.

Price: \$259.95

Contact: (877) 297-6937 | www.cyberpowersystems.com

Rackmount Solutions Minuteman Endeavor UPS Battery Backup



Rackmount Solutions' Minuteman Endeavor series of UPS battery backup products delivers an online uninterruptible power supply in a form factor that can be rack-mounted, placed on the floor as a tower, or installed in a cabinet. With a power factor of 0.8 watts and available with capacities up to 3kVA, the Minuteman Endeavor series features hot-swappable batteries, rapid battery recharging, and extended runtime using external battery packs, and it's also RoHS-compliant. Outlet receptacle control for noncritical load shedding is included. The Endeavor series also includes Minuteman SentryPlus monitoring and control software and a front panel display with status indications.

- Simultaneous RS-232, USB, and SNMP communications
- Three-year warranty with up to \$200,000 equipment damage insurance
- · Manual and automatic testing
- Harmonic distortion control
- Dedicated emergency power off port

Best For: Any situation where form factor flexibility is needed.

Price: Starts at \$546.75

Contact: (866) 207-6631 | www.rackmountsolutions.net

Rackmount Solutions Eaton Evolution S UPS Battery Backup



The high-density, line-interactive Eaton Evolution S UPS (1750 VA/3000 VA) is an ideal solution for protecting servers, network devices, storage systems, point-of-sale terminals and other sensitive electronic equipment. The Evolution S can be easily integrated into a wide variety of environments and can provide hours of battery runtime. And, with one of the best price/performance ratios, this UPS offers a low total cost of ownership.

- Line-interactive technology with sine wave output to ride through blackouts and brownouts without stressing the connected devices and high output to protect equipment with PFC power supplies
- Versatile rack/tower form factor available in high density 2U or 3U size
- Extended runtime capabilities with multiple, hot-swappable battery modules (optional)
- One USB port, one Serial/Contacts port and one card slot
- Remote reboot of locked equipment, sequential start-up

 $\textbf{Best For:} \ \textbf{Any situation where form factor flexibility is needed}.$

Price: Starts at \$599

Contact: (866) 207-6631 | www.rackmountsolutions.net

Product

Staco Energy Products FirstLine P 65-250kVA 480VAC UPS



Description

Staco Energy Products has added 160, 200, and 250kVA 480VAC UPS models to its FirstLine P lineup. The company now offers three-phase UPSes for 65-250kVA applications. Up to 98% efficient, the devices use IGBT (insulated-gate bipolar transistor) and DSP (digital signal processor) control to produce true online double conversion with up to eight units in parallel for expandability and redundancy. FirstLine P boasts high efficiency and an impressive power factor, which translate into lower utility costs and a greener footprint. The units protect upstream power supply sources from harmonics and reactive power generated by the load.

- Dual Bus and Dynamic Dual Bus System configurations
- Hot-swappable
- Front, top, or bottom access for placing units against a wall
- Two-year onsite warranty
- Nationwide Service Program

Best For: Computer room and data center applications where affordability, efficiency, reliability, and flexibility are essential.

Contact: (866) 261-1191 | www.stacoenergy.com

Staco Energy Products FirstLine PL 10-100kVA 208VAC UPS



Staco Energy Products FirstLine PL UPS is a parallelable three-phase UPS meant for 10-100kVA applications. Up to four FirstLine PL units can be run in parallel, providing redundancy with no additional hardware. The units have efficiencies of up to 95% and feature a compact transformerless design that allows for internal batteries up to 30kVA. IGBT and digital signal processor control provides true online, double-conversion technology, while a user-friendly display boasts alarms and LED indicators for bypass, main line, battery powering the load, load on bypass, and normal output.

- Dynamic Dual Bus System configuration
- Space-efficient
- Matching extended battery and options cabinets
- Two-year onsite warranty
- Nationwide Service Program

Best For: Network closets, computer rooms, and small data center applications requiring a high level of available conditioned power.

Contact: (866) 261-1191 | www.stacoenergy.com

Staco Energy Products UniStar P Series 6-10kVA Rack & Tower UPS



Staco Energy Products UniStar P is an online, single-phase parallel redundant UPS available in 6kVA Rack/Universal and 6kVA, 8kVA, and 10kVA Tower models. The products are power- and runtime-scalable, up to 98% efficient, can be configured with up to four units in parallel, and are DSP-controlled. The units feature an LCD/LED mimic panel and easy-to-set user personalization, and they offer continuous power conditioning and smooth uninterrupted switching from utility to battery, handling wide fluctuations without going to battery. The units also have a very low rate of added harmonics, which protects system integrity.

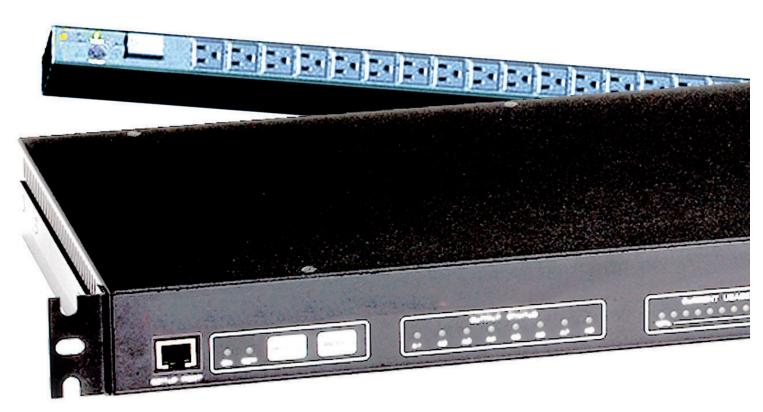
- High input power factor and low current THD
- Flexible Rack/Universal and Tower models
- RS-232 port and optional communications slots
- Industry-leading three-year warranty
 Nationwide Service Program
- Nationwide Service Program

Best For: Network closets and small computer rooms requiring a high level of continuous available conditioned power.

Contact: (866) 261-1191 | www.stacoenergy.com

BUYING TIPS:

UPSes



ULTIMATELY, the primary question IT should ask when buying UPSes is what level of protection is needed, says Brett Femrite, director of business development at Rackmount Solutions (www.rackmount solutions.net). "A basic surge protector/suppressor will go a long way to protect your equipment from power spikes and surges, but in the case of power outages, you need to look at a UPS," he says. To that end, consider the fol-

Top features to consider. Beyond a high efficiency rating (95% or greater), James Hall, marketing manager at Staco Energy Products (www.staco energy.com), says UPS systems should offer a high input power factor (greater than 99%), low input distortion (3% or less), easy installation and accessibility, and an external maintenance bypass switch. Other notable features include highperformance filtering to protect upstream power sources and dual inputs for the main and secondary emergency standby power. Hall advises to select a UPS that has sufficient capacity to handle the IT loads, adding that UPSes exceeding their capacities is one of the highest causes of data center downtime.

lowing buying tips.

Capacity-wise, Femrite advises to purchase a unit that exceeds your total power requirement by 20 to 30%. "This not only ensures capacity coverage but will also allow some room for growth if/when you add additional pieces of equipment," he says. Where runtime is concerned, Femrite says, "It can be a great cost savings down the road if you factor in future expansion and buy a UPS that offers the ability to upgrade or add additional batteries if/when needed."

UPS types. The three primary UPS categories include standby, line-interactive, and online models, Femrite says, with different iterations existing within each category. Standby systems run power through surge suppression to the equipment; if there's a power outage, the UPS switches to battery backup power, reverting back to AC power when

power returns. Line-interactive systems have built-in line-sensing abilities to regulate high or low voltage levels. An inverter switches on if there's a power loss, and the system switches to battery power. Online systems provide the highest protection level, Femrite says, as the inverter is online and operates continually to eliminate incoming surges and low

Buyers' Checklist

- ✓ What type of UPS system do you need?
- ✓ Is the UPS sized to properly handle the loads required?
- Are the necessary monitoring and management tools provided?
- ✓ Does the UPS offer sufficient runtime and capacity?
- ✓ Is the UPS backed by insurance or a guarantee?

KEY TERMS

Capacity:

The maximum amount of power a UPS can handle.

IGBT and DSP:

Short for insulate-gate bipolar transistors and digital signal processors, respectively, these components provide for true online double conversion in UPS systems.

Runtime:

The length of time a UPS will continue providing backup power in event of a power outage.

and high voltage issues while delivering clean power to equipment.

Data center-grade features. For data center use, Hall says three-phase online double conversion (converts AC power to DC and then back to AC) systems offer the greatest value while also providing conditioned power to IT loads. "These UPS systems totally isolate the load from the

primary AC line," he says. "Noise, sags, and swells never reach the load." Overall, Hall says obtaining the lowest TCO should be a primary objective. "This includes battery and other auxiliary hardware," he says. He advises to determine what the cost to acquire, operate, and maintain equipment will be over the equipment's lifetime. Additionally, key factors include high sustainability, space efficiency, ease of installation, integration with existing systems, scalability, and high reliability.

Size matters. In terms of data center-grade UPSes, Femrite cautions one size doesn't fit all. "It's more about design and configuration than type," he says. Budget, kW/MW capacity, availability requirements, and risk tolerance are other factors, as is recognizing that as the configuration gets higher on the availability/dependability scale, the associated costs also increase. "Redundancy, system efficiency, distributed architecture, maintenance, and fault tolerance (eliminating single points of failure) are all key considerations when evaluating data center-grade UPS solutions," Femrite says. Hall adds that SMEs should take transient loads into account when determining ideal UPS size.

Batteries. When factoring in batteries, Femrite says, "the solution you select should be able to notify you of any issues with battery performance or maintenance needs." Hall points out that battery life will degrade with age, even if they don't encounter lots of discharge cycles. Thus, if your minimum runtime requirements are critical, "the battery should be selected to provide some cushion so that after several years, minimum runtimes can still be achieved," Hall says.

HOW TO

Determine The Best Backup Plan For Your Enterprise

Data Security & Future Growth Are Among The Biggest Concerns

DETERMINING THE BEST backup solution for the enterprise and implementing it requires IT to address numerous issues, including those concerning how the solution will hold up in the future. Essentially, says Jason Buffington, Enterprise Strategy Group analyst, the future consists of "this year and next year and likely the one after that." During that time, however, it's possible the enterprise could outgrow the backup solution if business prospers and must evolve to meet growing needs, Buffington says. So, how best plan for future backup needs? One way, Buffington says, is asking vendors how they'd change their products and solutions now to meet two times, five times, and 10 times more data, "which arguably are only one, two, and potentially three years away, respectively." For more on selecting an appropriate backup solution, read on.

Getting Started

According to John Pearring, sales manager at STORServer (www.storserver.com), the first step toward the best backup choice is determining exactly what the enterprise's backup needs are. This requires knowing which data must be protected and how to protect it, when, and for how long. Doing so can

include contemplating RTO (recovery time objective), or how quickly certain data must be made available or restored, and RPO (recovery point objective), or from what point in time the enterprise must restore data. "The restore requirements are the most important issues," Pearring says. "Backup plans are important, but the fulcrum for decision-making begins with restore."

Another focal point for IT should be determining which backup solutions are reasonable. For example, says Greg Schulz, Server and StorageIO senior advisory consultant, a Band-Aid approach that buys the enterprise time until it can modernize data protection for the long haul might be appropriate. Schulz advises to step back from comparing tools and technologies initially and instead review service-level objectives and requirements, including RTO and RPO. "Also, review data access and usage patterns, as well as identify data that is a candidate for archiving from databases, email, and file systems," Schulz says. Reducing the enterprise's data footprint impact at the source using archiving for

inactive data with real-time compression and deduplication can also minimize the impact of data protection, Schulz says.

Prepare For Obstacles

Beyond addressing cost, growth, available resources, and staffing issues, Schulz says, a bigger obstacle for IT can be having to rethink how it has protected and

stored data previously. This may require stepping back from older technologies, he says, and looking at modernizing data protection vs. simply swapping out media, such as disks for tapes. Schulz advises to "find and fix problems, enable scale, [and] reduce complexity and cost while supporting growth."

Another potential obstacle relates to research, something Pearring says usually dominates a large part of the process and

which can include "comparisons, meetings, and affirming the marketing language and sales pitches actually do what they say they'll do." Comparing pricing, installation/implementation, training, and support options can also eat up time, he says, but these things all have to be done. Overall, Pearring suggests making certain

Action Plan

need protection.

Analyze how lost data or

■ Review RTO and RPO

Identify alternatives to what's

Involve staff responsible for the

■ Implement the backup tools

Analyze and make adjust-

ments where necessary.

and technologies best suited

current plan to review potential

currently being used.

productivity would impact

is exposed.

the business.

requirements.

new solutions.

for business.

Assess the current data environment.

Determine the key platforms that

■ Pinpoint areas where the business

under consideration. "Adoption of a plan that staff haven't all reviewed can be both awkward and difficult," he says. Buffington says that although a good

any staff members with a stake in the back-

up solution are able to review the solutions

data protection implementation can become transparent once deployed, implementing a plan "may take some expertise that's not in-house for most SMEs." Acquiring guidance is absolutely worth

Get Started

Selecting and implementing a backup solution can entail using metrics, measurements, and management tools that offer insight into the current backup solution and the data itself, including how it's being used and how often it changes and is accessed. Reviewing RTO and RPO numbers, protection frequency, and retention cycles may be warranted.

Buffington says the best tool IT can use is an outside integrator, "preferably someone who helped you deploy or maintain your existing infrastructure." While weighing solution options, he says, "consider any single vendor-created content with a grain of salt. I promise that their literature and Web info will make their stuff look exactly like what you need. Instead, consider a multivendor expert, per-

Ultimately, using a data footprint reduction approach, upgrading media, or using a cloudbased option may make the most sense.

Enterprise Strategy Group analyst Jason haps an analyst or an info-sharing portal."

Top Tips

- ✓ Allow for adjustments. When moving to a new backup solution, staff may need time to adjust. According to John Pearring, sales manager at STORServer (www.storserver.com), "Traditional backup solutions often force a company to act within the limitations of legacy backup operations." After a new solution is implemented, often those familiar with the legacy solution will create speed bumps to progress. "The reasons vary from simply doing things differently to actually eliminating mundane tasks that they've gotten used to doing," he says.
- ✓ Spend what's needed. According to Jason Buffington, analyst with Enterprise Strategy Group, "While everyone wants to spend pennies to save dollars, real data protection may cost dimes, not pennies-but you'll still be saving dollars," he says. Often, management may underestimate the financial impact downtime or lost data has until it's too late, he says. "In today's market, that may mean losing a key client or potentially being unable keep the doors open just because you can't get your data back," Buffington says.
- **✓ Don't assume.** Buffington says one obstacle SMEs may encounter is assuming it must match the protection levels of large enterprises. "Don't overestimate what you need or sticker-shock will kill you," he says. Conversely, he adds, "Don't underestimate, or you won't be able to recover. Understand what you need and it will 'fit' financially. Just be sure that you have the right tailor so the 'fit' is correct."

Key Points

- · A necessary step in deciding the best backup solution for the enterprise is determining what the enterprise's requirements are for restoring data.
- · Enterprises must decide what type of backup solution makes sense for the business, whether it's a completely new solution or upgrading an existing one.
- · Involve any IT responsible for the operation of the backup solution currently in place in the process for selecting a new or upgrade solution.

the money, he says, to help pinpoint those protection/resilience abilities already built into the SME's current platforms and apps and decide what to do with data recovery goals. "Do it right at the beginning so that you can get back to the business that you really want to be focused on, and not on IT," Buffington says.

Make A Seamless Transition

Selecting a specific backup approach can come down to something as simple as deciding what has to change with what you're currently doing and what can stay the same. "Replacing existing backup solutions doesn't need to be a total chaos-inducing shift," Pearring says. "Plan for making changes that must be made and for keeping what works either the

> same or easily transferable. The impact on the company with a new data protection solution should not be so overwhelming that the company can be paralyzed. The solution you're buying may indeed be a 'rip and replace' purchase, but it should be as seamless as possible."

> One thing to remember, Buffington says, is that your infrastructure is not that unique. In other words, hundreds of other companies have probably already addressed and overcome challenges identical or similar, meaning information is typically easily accessible. Additionally, using an outside expert to help bring the plan into being can ease the burden on IT, as can using a cloud-based service, which Buffington says can greatly save on the time IT devotes to backups.



HOW TO

Conduct An IT Audit

Make Sure Your Infrastructure Works Exactly As It Should

Your Infrastructure and the assorted products and services that make up your data center are not simply set it and forget it. Taking this approach could result in not getting the best performance out of the technology and opening the door for bigger problems in the future. In some cases, you'll need more than an internal

monitoring solution to make sure your infrastructure is working as it should. For that, you can conduct your own IT audit or take advantage of the services of independent auditing firms.

The goal of an IT audit is to assess your infrastructure and the controls you have in place to monitor them. Once completed, an audit can tell you if these systems are working correctly or if work needs to be done. IT audits are important because technology is involved in almost every business process. In fact, the revenue stream of some companies "could be based on IT technology and has to operate the way you think it should and in a cost-effective matter," says Dave Brand, managing director at Protiviti (www.protiviti.com).

Here is a walkthrough of the IT audit process from beginning to end that shows how it can help your business in the long run.

Pre-Audit & Early In The Process

Before you even contact an outside auditor, you should have an adequate monitoring system in place to track the performance of your infrastructure. "A mix of independent auditing and nonindependent monitoring are both important," says Ed McMurray, security and compliance consultant at CoNetrix (www.conetrix .com). "The monitoring can be done by someone in the IT department, because they can keep a close eye on it." Having such a system in place will make the audit process as painless as possible and give the auditor a great place to start when evaluating your data center.

With this information, you can formulate a risk-based list of systems that need to be audited. These can range from security solutions and applications to basic enduser support. This list will also help you decide what type of audit will work best for you. For instance, you can conduct a full audit for a majority of your IT products or you can break it down into smaller segments for faster auditing.

"A full IT audit will cover technical vulnerabilities, like patches being installed in a timely matter or logs being reviewed regularly all the way up to policies, procedures, and business continuity plans," McMurray says. "Or you can have a penetration test only, which is an external assessment of your Internet exposure related to social engineering, telephones, and more."

During The Audit & Afterward

The actual audit process is straightforward. There may be an onsite visit prior to the actual audit where the two sides can work together to formulate an action plan that schedules out the audit steps and when they should take place. From there, an external auditing firm

Action Plan

- Before the audit process begins, you should have a system in place to monitor your infrastructure and make sure you can track its performance.
- Conduct a risk assessment of your data center and create a list of infrastructure and systems ranked from highest risk to lowest risk. This will help you decide which parts of your data center to audit.
- Sit down with your IT department, including management, and the auditor in order to formulate an audit plan. Decide which systems to audit, when to audit them, and what your expectations are based on your already gathered performance data.
- Run an audit of the highest-risk systems to ensure they are working correctly.
- After the audit, go over the report and assess potential areas of weakness. Then, put a plan in place to optimize your infrastructure in order to get the performance you expect.
- You may want to run another audit at a later date to ensure that the changes you make to your infrastructure are having the desired effect.

rom there, an external auditing firm

Key Points

- Know the inherent risks of your infrastructure and have a way to monitor it to make sure performance is living up to expectations.
- Understand the auditing process and what the role of the IT department is within that process. Work in tandem with the auditor and don't be afraid to ask questions about how to improve throughout.
- Consider either a rotation- or risk-based approach to auditing, so you can make sure your systems are always running at the highest level and new issues don't crop up.

Get Started

According to Dave Brand, managing director at Protiviti (www.protiviti.com), the two most important things you can do to get started are to have a solid system in place to monitor controls and to know the highest risk infrastructure in your data center. "Understand the risks associated with what it is you own and understand the controls you have in place," Brand says. "Then, ask the auditor if all of the great things you're doing are working like they're supposed to."

will send an auditor to conduct tests and assess only the infrastructure that you wish to audit. The auditor will also assess your monitoring solutions to ensure they are working as they should. After the audit, you'll find out whether your company's systems are meeting expectations.

Brand says that as long as you have monitoring systems in place prior to the audit, the "IT and data center manager doesn't have to do much." But he also stresses that there should be cooperation between the management or audit committee within the company, the IT department, and the auditor throughout the process to ensure that the company understands what he auditor found and what needs to be done.

And if after the audit and subsequent fixes a certain technology is still coming up highrisk, Brand says that companies shouldn't hesitate to perform another audit until the problem is solved.

Top Tips

- ✓ Ed McMurray, security and compliance consultant at CoNetrix (www.conetrix), says that even if your company isn't in the most common industries for audits, such as regulative or banking, it's still important to consider auditing your IT systems. "You can find a good audit firm that can work with SMBs at a reasonable price that will come in and do a wide range of IT audits to give you a better perspective," McMurray says.
- Don't forget to audit business continuity controls, including disaster recovery, because if all else fails, those are the systems that will save you from data loss and extensive downtime.
- ✓ There are a variety of audits available and many are customizable for individual companies. Conduct research and find the audits that will work best for your specific environment.

Build An Audit Schedule For The Future

Always keep in mind that audits are tools for your company to improve performance and make sure your technology is working efficiently. For that reason, you should come up with a schedule of when to complete audits and constantly update your risk-based list of infrastructure. According to Brand, there's a possibility that systems you perceived as low risk at the beginning could "become more prevalent on the risk ladder" as time goes on, so it's important to stay upto-date and regularly monitor the performance of your data center technology. P

HOW TO

Decide Between In-House Or Hosted VoIP

Compare Upfront Costs, Unique Benefits & More Before Diving In

ON-PREMISES VOIP SYSTEMS have been around for quite some time, but with the increase of cloud-based technology offerings, managed and hosted VoIP solutions are becoming viable alternatives. Self-managed on-premises systems give companies full control but often have a higher upfront cost, while managed on-premises or hosted systems often have a lower cost but give businesses much less managerial control.

Choosing one of these solutions can be difficult. But if you look at your infrastructure capabilities, compare costs, and weigh the pros and cons of each system, you should be able to find a VoIP solution that will meet your needs without exceeding your budget.

solution that go beyond the cost of hardware, software, or hosted pricing. He recommends looking at the accounting aspects and tax advantages of each type of system and to calculate the total cost of ownership related to each type of VoIP solution. "A fixed monthly operating cost for a hosted solution can be desirable," he says. "But the TCO over the life span of the system could in fact be less with an on-premises VoIP system."

Upgrade Or Make The Move

Some companies may already have an on-premises VoIP system in place but are looking at either upgrading it or switching to a hosted alternative. There are a few

signs that it may be time to upgrade, including failing equipment, expensive maintenance, or staff complaints about the current low-tech offering, says Daniel O'Connell, research director for the Enterprise Service group at Gartner. Depending on the state of your infrastructure and current VoIP solution, a simple upgrade may be enough to meet your changing VoIP needs.

In some cases, however, it may be more cost-effective to switch over to a hosted solution that can provide faster speeds and better overall performance at a lower price. O'Connell says that hosted solutions may be more beneficial for SMEs or highly distributed businesses that have difficulty managing

an in-house VoIP system. Instead of spending money upgrading your

Key Points

- Look at your infrastructure capabilities and make sure you are even in a position to manage a VoIP solution. If you already have one in place, decide whether to upgrade it or move to a third-party alternative.
- Compare the total cost of ownership of inhouse, managed, or hosted VoIP systems and consider the long-term and short-term costs of each option.
- If you choose a third-party VoIP solution, choose wisely between an on-premises managed solution and a fully hosted one. Determine how much control you want over the system.

Analyze Your Infrastructure

Before you start examining the unique features of onpremises, self-managed VoIP or hosted VoIP solutions, you should look at the capabilities of your existing infrastructure, including your network bandwidth and cabling. According to Brett Femrite, director of business development at Rackmount Solutions (www .rackmountsolutions.net), you have to ask yourself, "Do I have the appropriate cabling infrastructure in place to support the VoIP solutions? Are there dual CAT 5 drops to each workstation, or am I having to daisychain my workstation PCs into the phone and the VoIP into the jack?" Depending on your answers, your infrastructure might not even be able to support in-house VoIP, which will limit your choices.

On top of infrastructure, you also have to analyze your workforce. You may have employees that are familiar with using VoIP solutions but don't have the expertise to manage them. If this is the case, you would have to hire new employees or bring in an outside expert to train members of your IT department, which all adds to the upfront costs related to setting up an on-premises, self-managed VoIP system.

Compare The Costs

As with any major IT-related purchase, you have to consider the overall cost and what functionality you will receive for the price you pay. "With an in-house solution, you typically will have more upfront acquisition costs, but more control over your system for moves, additions, and changes," Femrite says. "With a hosted solution, be sure to carefully examine the agreement and its response times for both standard charges and emergency situations, such as system outages."

Femrite says there are many financial factors related to choosing a VoIP

Action Plan

The following steps were provided by James McCloskey, senior research analyst at Info-Tech Research.

- Inventory your existing telecom services, including circuits, users, functionality, capacity, and workload.
- Understand near-term and future growth needs in terms of users, advanced features, and related capabilities, such as unified communication, videoconferencing, or mobility.
- Identify your options. This includes upgrading or extending your current system, replacing it with a new onpremises or managed system, or moving to a fully hosted version.
- Understand the capabilities and lifecycle costs associated with the various options.
- Make your selection and implement it, taking great care to ensure it is flexible enough to keep up with your company's changing needs.

Get Started

Look at the size of your company and the number of employees that will need to access the VoIP solution. If your company has fewer than 250 employees, you may be able to put an on-premises VoIP system in place that will perform well and be easy to manage. However, if your company has more than 250 employees or is spread out over multiple satellite offices, then allowing a third-party provider to manage every facet of your enterprise's VoIP system may be a less expensive alternative as well as a headache reliever for your IT department.

Top Tips

- Make sure a third-party VoIP vendor fully meets the current needs of your company as well as any that might arise in the future. Have a good idea of what direction your business is going and how quickly. This will help you choose a VoIP solution that is flexible enough for your company and has all the necessary features.
- ✓ Know the strengths of your workforce. Build a cost-benefit analysis of whether it's worth it to train employees on how to manage a VoIP solution. If not, a managed or hosted VoIP system may be a better alternative.
- Consider system availability. With an in-house, self-managed VoIP system, you have more control over uptime and downtime. If a third-party vendor has an outage, no matter how large or small, it could negatively affect the productivity of your employees.

using the system, instead of controlling and managing it.

existing systems or hiring more per-

sonnel, you can pass the management

responsibilities on to a third-

party vendor and focus on

Managed On-Premises
vs. Hosted

If in the end you decide that a third-party managed

that a third-party managed solution is the answer to your problems, you then have to decide between a managed on-premises approach and a hosted alternative. With managed on-premises VoIP solutions, you are responsible for purchasing or leasing hardware and software for the VoIP solution and implementing it. The service provider is simply responsible for managing your VoIP solution and helping with any issues along the way.

With a hosted solution, you still have phones and other communication tools onsite, but the actual network connection and VoIP system are managed and hosted

by the third-party vendor. In the short term, hosted VoIP is one of the least expensive and most adaptable choices, because "capital expenditures are minimized and subscription pricing provides substantial flexibility for adding or changing services," says James McCloskey, senior research analyst at Info-Tech Research.

Both of these options will counteract the need for in-house personnel with VoIP management experience and help lower the costs associated with implementing a VoIP solution, whether it be through leasing or hosting. In the end, it depends on how much control your company wants over the system and determining whether a fully hosted solution would better fit the needs of the organization.

SIX QUICK TIPS

Diagnose Server Performance Problems

Read The Signs To Determine What's Causing Trouble In Your Data Center

SERVER LAG FRUSTRATES EVERYONE—your end users waiting for a Microsoft PowerPoint file to open, your C-level executives who want their email pushed to them instantaneously, and you, the data center manager who must listen to and solve these complaints.

In today's increasingly virtualized world, server performance problems are more common and problematic than ever before. "In a physical environment, each server had its own SCSI controller, disks, memory, CPU, and so forth," says Erwin Vollering, virtualization service director at consultancy GlassHouse Technologies (www.glasshouse.com). "Now you're running 10 to 15 servers in a shared environment on your physical host [that] are doing the same thing at the same time, using the same resources, and everything comes crashing down."

So how do you go about diagnosing these difficulties so that you can solve them and move on? Here are some tips to get you started.

Make Sure It's The Server

Many performance problems that seem server-based oftentimes are caused by issues at the network, database, and storage tiers, says Jesse Rothstein, CEO and founder of ExtraHop (www.extrahop.com). "Ultimately, you need to look for these problems in a holistic, end-to-end manner, although the distinction can be tricky," Rothstein says.

"If there is a delay happening, we want to see if the delay is occurring in the server first or if it's happening out with the network or with the client," says Dan Klimke, global product marketing manager at Fluke Networks (www.flukenetworks.com). "A lot of time is wasted chasing symptoms."

Oftentimes multiple servers are linked together to deliver, say, an application to an end user. "You could have a Web-based front-end server that is talking to an application server that's talking to a database server, and all of these are linked together over a network of some sort," Klimke says. "So in troubleshooting, a first step is to ensure the problem is with the server, as opposed to being in the network."

Fix Your Chatty Apps

It's entirely possible that an application is causing your server to lag or hang up. "An application can be excessively 'chatty,' meaning that instead of using large frames that encompass using a large amount of data and sending a fewer number of those, they are written to use minimum-sized frames, so they end up having to send back and forth a lot of traffic to get accomplished what larger frame sizes would accomplish much faster and more efficiently," Klimke says.

For example, a command from an application may have gone into the server that sent the server into no-man's land. "Look at the actual traffic that went into the server

to find out at what point the packet went in and what command went into the server before it hung up," Klimke says. "That would necessitate having to look at actual traffic along the wire and being able to decode the command and the frame that went in just before that server hung up."

Clean Up Dirty Networks

Dirty networks—ones that drop, reorder, or fragment packets—can slow down a server's performance, which can cause decreased server performance and increased server load, Rothstein says.

"Most people don't realize that the network protocol stacks like the TCP stacks have a fast path and a slow path. The fast path is efficient and optimized for the packets it expects, the in-order delivery of the next packet," he explains. "But when you have out-of-order delivery or [inadvertently go] down from the L4 layer to the L3 layer, the servers and operating systems will spend a lot more resources reassembling those IP fragments or reordering and reassembling the TCP segments."

Virtualization can complicate this problem. "Your hypervisor is a scheduler . . . sharing CPU time across all of the different VMs and guest OSes that are running, and things can get delayed when it is switching from one to the other," Rothstein says. "If the provisioning is wrong, network packets can be delayed to the point where they're lost by the underlying network stack, and once you reach a tipping point, the performance degradation isn't just noticeable. It's catastrophic."

✓ Use Your Monitoring Tools

Whether it's an automated third-party tool that performs SNMP polling to record your server's health metrics or a simpler free open-source tool, leverage your monitoring tools, Rothstein says.

Monitoring tools are especially important if you're using virtualized servers, says Vollering. He says that all three major virtualization providers—VMware, Microsoft, and Citrix—offer good monitoring tools. "They'll tell you what is stressing your environment, whether it is CPUs, memory, or disk utilization," he says.

Even though those tools are available and in place, too often companies either don't know they have them available or don't know how to use them, Vollering says. Moreover, these tools can flood you with information and alerts. "You could spend the whole day going through graphs or charts," he says.

So what's the best way to leverage these tools? "Read through the manuals and configure [the tools] properly for your environment," Vollering says. "That way, if there's an alert, you know it needs to be explored, as opposed to being flooded by alerts because it's still configured with the default thresholds."

Best Tip:

✓ Check Your Server's Physical Resources

Once you have pinpointed a performance problem as being server-based, you want to check out the physical resources in the offending server, says Kelly Sather, inside solutions architect at CDW (www.cdw.com). "The best case scenario is as simple as needing to add another processor or more memory," he says.

"Check to see if your CPU utilization [is being] overwhelmed by processes," adds Dan Klimke, global product marketing manager at Fluke Networks (www.flukenetworks.com). "We see lots of problems crop up just because disks get full."

Most Common-Sense Tip:

✓ Make Sure Servers Are Up To The Task

Just because your hardware has made the compatibility list for a new or upgraded application doesn't mean it will run properly, Sather says. "The resources in your server need to be commensurate with the load it's going to have," he says. "People moving to Exchange 2010, for example, are coming off older versions of Exchange that ran fine on their dual-processor, quad-core system with 24GB RAM. But because [Exchange 2010] is more resource-intensive, they see after the fact it's not going to run on the old hardware."

BONUS TIPS:

✓ Calibrate and adjust your loads.

Multiple virtual servers can bring about loads far beyond what physical servers can handle. "Know your limitations. If you do a snapshot at the same time you're running your monthly financial consolidation numbers, your storage won't be able to handle all those transactions simultaneously," says Erwin Vollering, virtualization service director at consultancy GlassHouse Technologies.

✓ Live migrate virtual machines.

As workloads increase and VMs proliferate, you may find moving a problem-causing VM onto another host or offload "good" VMs onto another host to free up resources to VMs that need them, says Kelly Sather, inside solutions architect at CDW (www.cdw.com). Both VMware's vMotion and Microsoft's Hyper-V, among others, let you live-migrate VMs to other hosts without any connectivity to the end user.

PROCESSOR.

Upcoming IT Events

Network With Your Peers At These IT Training & Association Meetings Across The United States

APRIL

AITP Pittsburgh

April 9, 5 to 8 p.m. Silvioni's Restaurant 2125 Babcock Blvd. Pittsburgh, Pa. www.aitp-pgh.org

AITP Wheeling-Wheeling Hospital New Tower 5 Tour

April 11 Wheeling Hospital 1 Medical Park Wheeling, W.Va. aitp-wheeling.org

. AITP Washington, D.C.

April 12 Alfio's La Trattorio Restaurant 4515 Willard Ave. Chevy Chase, Md. www.aitpdc.org

AITP Atlanta

April 19, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Crowne Plaza Ravinia 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road Atlanta, Ga. www.aitpatlanta.org

. **ISACA Kentuckiana**

April 20, 11:30 a.m. Louisville, Ky. www.isacaky.org

ISSA Middle Tennessee

April 20, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. midtn.issa.org

. **AITP Akron**

April 24 Akron, Ohio www.akron-aitp.org

. **SharePoint Designer**

April 24, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. New Horizons South Dakota 4610 Technopolis Drive, Suite 100 Sioux Falls, S.D. register.nhcomputerlearning.com /Events/

ISSA Baltimore

April 25 Sparta Inc. 7110 Samuel Morse Drive 2nd Floor Columbia, Md. www.issa-balt.org

ISSA Metro Atlanta

April 26 Atlanta, Ga. www.gaissa.org

. **VMware View:**

Install, Configure, Manage (v 5.0)

April 30-May 5 The Arden Center 4675 Cornell Road, Suite 175 Blue Ash, Ohio www.ardentraining.com

MAY

Region 5 Spring Technology and Networking Conference

May 1-2 Holiday Inn Rolling Meadows 3405 Algonquin Road Rolling Meadows, III. www.aitpchicago.com

. SpecTECHular 2012

May 3

New Horizons Austin 300 Highland Mall Blvd., Suite 100 Austin, Texas register.nhcomputerlearning.com /Events/

. Interop

May 6-10 Mandalay Bay Convention Center Las Vegas, Nev. www.interop.com

AITP Washington, D.C.

May 10

Alfio's La Trattorio Restaurant 4515 Willard Ave. Chevy Chase, Md. www.aitpdc.org

AITP Pittsburgh

May 14, 5 to 8 p.m. Silvioni's Restaurant 2125 Babcock Blvd. Pittsburgh, Pa. www.aitp-pgh.org

SpecTECHular 2012

May 15 New Horizons Houston 5120 Woodway Drive, Suite 200 Houston, Texas register.nhcomputerlearning.com /Events/

ISSA Los Angeles 4th Annual Information Security Summit

May 16 Universal Hilton 555 Universal Hollywood Drive Universal City, Calif. www.issala.org/events/?event_id=16

. **Android DevCon III**

May 17 Hyatt Regency Burlingame 1333 Bayshore Highway Burlingame, Calif. www.andevcon.com

. **AITP Atlanta**

May 17, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Crowne Plaza Ravinia 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road Atlanta, Ga. www.aitpatlanta.org

. **AITP Akron**

May 22 Akron, Ohio www.akron-aitp.org

Exchange 2010

May 22, 10 a.m. to noon New Horizons South Dakota 4610 Technopolis Drive, Suite 100 Sioux Falls, S.D. register.nhcomputerlearning.com /Events/

. SpecTECHular 2012 May 22

New Horizons Colorado 10303 E. Dry Creek Road, Suite 100 Englewood, Colo. register.nhcomputerlearning.com /Events/

ISSA Baltimore

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JUNE

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June 7 New Horizons Dallas 150 W. John Carpenter Freeway Suite 100 Irving, Texas register.nhcomputerlearning.com /Events/

AITP Pittsburgh

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June 16 New Horizons Cincinnati 10653 Techwoods Circle

Cincinnati, Ohio register.nhcomputerlearning.com /Events/

.

Organization In Outlook Made Simple June 19, 10 to 11 a.m. New Horizons South Dakota

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. **AITP Akron**

June 26 Akron, Ohio www.akron-aitp.org

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SpecTECHular 2012

June 28 New Horizons Dayton 1890 Commerce Center Fairborn, Ohio register.nhcomputerlearning.com /Events/

Upcoming IT Events



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AITP Washington, D.C.

July 12 Alfio's La Trattorio Restaurant 4515 Willard Ave. Chevy Chase, Md.

SpecTECHular 2012

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New Horizons Fort Worth
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SpecTECHular 2012

July 24
New Horizons San Antonio
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Suite 103
San Antonio, Texas
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SQL Coding Best Practices and Shortcuts

July 24, 9 to 11 a.m.

New Horizons

South Dakota

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Suite 100

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ISSA

Baltimore
July 25
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7110 Samuel Morse Drive
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Columbia, Md.
www.issa-balt.org

SPTechCon

July 25 Boston, Mass. www.sptechcon.com

AUGUST

AITP Washington, D.C.

Aug. 9
Alfio's La Trattorio Restaurant
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Chevy Chase, Md.
www.aitpdc.org

SpecTECHular 2012

Aug. 9
New Horizons Kansas City
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Overland Park, Kansas
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AITP Pittsburgh

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SpecTECHular 2012 Aug. 21

New Horizons Oklahoma City 3010 NW 149th St. Oklahoma City, Okla. register.nhcomputerlearning.com /Events/

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SEPTEMBER

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AITP Akron

Sept. 25 Akron, Ohio www.akron-aitp.org

Data Center World

Sept. 30-Oct. 3 Gaylord Opryland Nashville, Tenn. www.afcom.com

OCTOBER

Interop New York

Oct. 1-5
Javits Convention Center
New York, N.Y.
www.interop.com

AITP Pittsburgh

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AITP Washington, D.C.

Oct. 11 Alfio's La Trattorio Restaurant 4515 Willard Ave. Chevy Chase, Md. www.aitpdc.org

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WPDevCon

Oct. 24
San Francisco, Calif.
www.wpdevcon.net

AITP Akron

Oct. 30 Akron, Ohio www.akron-aitp.org

NOVEMBER

AITP Washington, D.C.

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Chevy Chase, Md.
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AITP Pittsburgh

Nov. 12, 5 to 8 p.m. Silvioni's Restaurant 2125 Babcock Blvd. Pittsburgh, Pa. www.aitp-pgh.org

ISSA Baltimore

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DECEMBER

Android DevCon IV

Dec. 7 San Francisco, Calif. www.andevcon.com

AITP Pittsburgh

Dec. 10, 5 to 8 p.m. Silvioni's Restaurant 2125 Babcock Blvd. Pittsburgh, Pa. www.aitp-pgh.org

AITP Washington, D.C.

Dec. 13
Alfio's La Trattorio Restaurant
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ISSA Baltimore

Dec. 19
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Do you have an event you'd like to see listed? Send an email to feedback@processor.com.

USED & REFURBISHED EQUIPMENT

Security Concerns With Used Equipment

Be Smart About What & Where You Buy To Prevent Security Breaches

WHEN IT COMES TO used or refurbished equipment, much attention is given to the quality of the preowned equipment and how much it will cost to maintain it, and rightly so. However, there is another factor that deserves just as much—or more—attention: security. Here is a look at how both buyers and sellers of used and refurbished equipment can sidestep security problems.

Start with a clean slate. When it comes to used or refurbished equipment, whether you're buying it from someone else or selling your own, you must make sure that it has been wiped clean so as to avoid costly security breaches and data loss.

"A lot of companies selling off their excess IT assets worry about the data that is left over on those systems. They are concerned with making sure that all of the proprietary information stored on those systems is wiped before they

re-enter the market," says Benjamin Yampolsky, director of IT at Aventis (www.aventissystems.com). "However, the same companies show little concern when buying refurbished computers. It is important to make sure the second-hand equipment entering the enterprise has gone through the process of being wiped and reset to factory defaults so as not to leave access holes."

Used and refurbished are not the same. Properly refurbishing equipment requires a number of steps, Yampolsky says. "Many companies that sell offlease, used, or excess inventory gear are not familiar with the refurbishing process," he says. "The label 'refurbished' is not synonymous with 'used.' 'Refurbished' means that the item has been restored to factory settings, with no trace of the previous user's data. This includes doing a secure erase on all hard and flash drives,

wiping the configuration in the various low-level firmware of the product, as well as doing extensive testing to confirm the product is operational per original factory standards."

Beware of unwelcome surprises. There is a remote but realistic chance that the equipment you're buying is a Trojan horse of sorts, equipped to provide outside parties with your sensitive data.

"A great number of the computer and laptop tracking software that is currently on the market will not get destroyed in a format and OS reinstall," says Lenny Fuchs, principal of consultancy firm My IT Department. "Most allow root-level access to the computer."

Fuchs says keyloggers or other software can be used to track the location of the owner and even perform nefarious acts such as deleting the contents of the hard drive. "On the purchasing side, there is a risk that used media contains malware," adds Joe Fisher, president of Affinity IT Training. "It would be wise to scan refurbished drives using the latest antivirus software, especially if [the drives] are used to boot the machine."

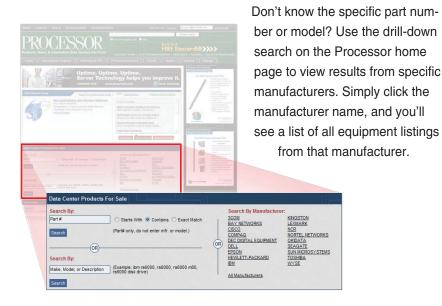
"You never really know how a piece of IT equipment has been used—or abused," Fuchs says.

Look for certified equipment. According to Yampolsky, one of the best things you can do when looking for used or refurbished equipment is to look for gear that's certified by its original manufacturer; for example, if you're looking for Cisco gear, look for a Cisco-certified shop or product. "A lot of resellers may tout their staff's CompTIA certifications, but those are not specific enough to confirm the seller has qualified personnel who know what they are doing," he says.

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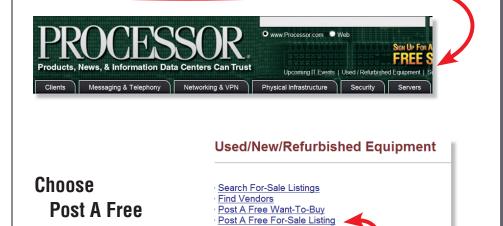
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